

# Thematic Assessment on Farm to Fork (Food Systems) for the Republic of Moldova

Part of the Green Agenda for Armenia, Georgia,  
Moldova and Ukraine project

April 2024

*Authored by:*

*Viorel Gherciu, Farm to Fork Expert, Moldova*

*Ana Benoliel Coutinho, Farm to Fork Expert, Moldova*

*Mark Driscoll, Farm to Fork Team Lead*

*Ieva Galkyte, Farm to Fork Thematic Coordinator*



---

### DISCLAIMER:

This thematic report was developed under the **Green Agenda for Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine project**, which is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and led by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). It is issued as a technical working document to provide sector-specific insights as part of a broader effort under the Green Agenda.

The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Sida, SEI, or any other project partners or stakeholders.

The report is based on information available up to Spring 2024. For the latest data and analysis, please refer to the national green transition assessment report for Moldova.

---



# Table of contents

List of abbreviations .....	1
Introduction.....	4
1. Current state and trends .....	6
1.1. The profile of the thematic area .....	6
1.2 Key statistics and trends of the thematic area .....	11
2. Farm to Fork stakeholder mapping.....	20
1. Policy and decision-makers .....	20
2. Academia and research .....	22
3. CSOs and specialised agri-food organisations .....	22
4. International Organisations and Funders.....	23
3. Farm to Fork gap assessment.....	24
3.1 Policy and legal framework .....	24
3.1.1 Strategic and planning documents, goals, and targets.....	24
3.1.2 Compliance of national legal framework to international obligations/conventions and EU approximation .....	34
3.2 Instruments for policy implementation .....	37
3.2.1 Regulatory and economic instruments.....	39
3.2.2 Funding and financing .....	44
3.3 Institutional/governance capacity.....	46
3.3.1 Existing institutional set-up.....	47
3.3.2 Capacity assessment of the existing institutional set-up .....	51



3.4 Non-governmental actor capacity .....	53
3.4.1 Technical and infrastructure capabilities .....	53
3.4.2 Green skills and awareness .....	55
3.4.3 Stakeholder capacity .....	58
4. Crosscutting areas within thematic reports .....	59
4.1 Finance for transition .....	59
4.2 Just Transition .....	68
4.2.1 Current employment in the sector .....	69
4.2.2 Endangered jobs due to the green transition .....	71
4.2.3 Potential of new jobs in the sector due to the green transition in the agri- food system.....	71
4.2.4 Training programs specifically created to build green transition capacity .....	73
5. Summary and conclusions .....	74
5.1 Current state of the green transition .....	74
5.2 Summary of the gap assessment .....	79
References .....	90
Annexes.....	95
Annex 1. Mapping the strategic national documents, as well as relevant thematic objectives and targets.....	95
Annex 2. EU approximation assessment template .....	99
Annex 2.1 SECONDARY LEGISLATION ACTS ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION implementing Law LP237/2023 on organic production and labelling of organic products .....	109
Annex 3. Stakeholder meetings, held as part of the quality assurance process .....	112



## List of abbreviations

PAA	Association Agreement
ACSA	Agency for Consultancy and Services in Agriculture
ADMA	The Agency for Agricultural Development and Modernisation
AIPA	Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
ANSA	The National Agency for Food Safety
CO <sub>2</sub> e	Carbon Dioxide equivalent
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGF	Credit Guarantee Fund
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas
EA	European Environment Agency
EC	European Commission
EGD	European Green Deal
EU	European Union
F2F	Farm to Fork
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FNDAMR	National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Environment



## Moldova

---

FSS	Food Security Strategy
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GO	General Objective
GVAs	Global value chains
HR	Human Resources
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ITPGRFA	The Plant Treaty
Kg	Kilogram
LULUCF	Land use, Land-use change and Forestry
LAG	Local Action Group
LPA	Local Public Authorities
MAFI	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
MEDD	Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation
MDL	Moldova Lei
Mt	Million tonnes
NAPH	National Agency for Public Health
NFRLD	The National Regional Development Fund
NFDARD	National Fund for Development of Agriculture and Rural Development
NSARD	National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development
ODA	Organisation for the Development of Entrepreneurship
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases



## Moldova

---

NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFDARA	National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas
PP	Phytosanitary Products
SO	Specific Objective
SPP	Sustainable Public Procurement
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
USD	United States Dollar



# Introduction

The Farm to Fork sectoral assessment report for the Republic of Moldova is the first key deliverable within the “Green Agenda for Georgia, Ukraine, and Armenia” (GA GUMA) project. The project aims to assist target countries in achieving climate neutrality goals through a green transition. It comprehensively assesses Moldova's environment, climate, and energy landscape, identifying institutional, legal, policy, and implementation challenges across different sectors. The goal is to provide Moldova with a country-specific roadmap to transition towards a more prosperous and resilient economy.

As part of Work Package 1, Comprehensive Green Transition Assessment, this report focuses on the Farm to Fork (food systems<sup>1</sup>) thematic area. It evaluates Moldova's readiness for the transition to sustainable food systems<sup>2</sup>, examining policy planning capacities, implementation levels, institutional collaboration, and stakeholder inclusion.

The Farm to Fork thematic area's scope is primarily based on the [EU Farm to Fork Strategy](#), which is integral to the [European Green Deal](#). This strategy aims to make food systems fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly, aligning with the Green Deal's climate and environmental objectives.



---

<sup>1</sup> Food Systems embrace the entire range of actors, and their interlinked value-adding activities involved in the production, harvesting, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal (loss and waste) of food products that originate from agriculture (incl. livestock), fisheries (wild caught and farmed), and food industries, and the broader economic, societal, and natural environments in which they are embedded. (Adapted from [the Scientific Group of the UN Food Systems Summit, 2021](#))

<sup>2</sup> A sustainable food system contributes to food security and nutrition for all so that the economic, social, cultural, and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are safeguarded ([Scientific Group of the UN Food Systems Summit, 2021](#)).





The Farm to Fork Strategy seeks to expedite the transition to a sustainable food system that should:

- Have a positive environmental impact
- Help mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts
- Reverse the loss of biodiversity
- Ensure food security, nutrition and public health, providing access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, and sustainable food for all
- Preserve the affordability of food while generating fairer economic returns, fostering competitiveness in the EU supply sector, and promoting fair trade.

The different areas covered by the EU Farm to Fork strategy are:

- Building the food chain that works for consumers, producers, the climate, and the environment to:
  - Ensure sustainable food production
  - Ensure food security
  - Stimulate sustainable food processing, wholesale, retail, hospitality, and food service practices
  - Promote sustainable food consumption and facilitate the shift to healthy, sustainable diets
  - Reduce food loss and waste
  - Combat food fraud along the food supply chain
- Enabling the transition:
  - Research, innovation, technology, and investments
  - Advisory services, data and knowledge sharing, and skills

Given the stated objectives and thematic subareas, the report thoroughly assesses the current situation (as of April 2024) in Moldova's Farm to Fork sector.



# 1. Current state and trends

## 1.1. The profile of the thematic area

The Republic of Moldova is a small, landlocked country in Eastern Europe, with a total land surface of 33,846 square kilometres and a population of 2.565<sup>3</sup> million. Moldova's agri-food sector plays a significant role in the country's economy. More than one million tons of fresh fruits and vegetables are produced annually, with 80% of the total production taking place in individual households and 90% of locally processed fruits and vegetables being exported. The main products in the Moldovan livestock sector are poultry, pork, and beef.

The agri-food sector employs over 21% of the country's labour force, and agri-food production usually accounts for around 12% of Moldova's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Combined with the food processing industry and fisheries, the sector represents, on average, about 13% of GDP<sup>4</sup> and approximately 45% of total exports<sup>5</sup> (Table 1). Moldova's fish production is small compared to many European Union (EU) countries. In 2017, Moldova's total fishery production stood at 12,100 tonnes, with almost all production coming from aquaculture, predominantly carp fisheries. Fish and fishery products were valued at United States Dollars (USD) 48.8 million, and exports at USD 40,000. Fish consumption was estimated at 4.6 kilograms (kg)/capita in 2020, with 23,185 kilograms of fish imported into the country<sup>6</sup>. The fisheries and aquaculture sector contributes just 0.03% to the national GDP<sup>7</sup> but contributes to food security, covering 25% of total internal fish consumption.

According to the National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development 2023-2030 (NARDS, 2030)<sup>8</sup>, the main policy guiding document in the sector, the agricultural industry is one of the most important employers, providing jobs for approximately 21%

---

<sup>3</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *International Statistics*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/23\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/23_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 22 December 2023)

<sup>4</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *National Accounts*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/13\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/13_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 22 December 2023)

<sup>5</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *International Trade in Goods*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/20\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/20_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

<sup>6</sup> Government of the Republic of Moldova (2022). *Information provided by the Government of the Republic of Moldova to the Questionnaire of the European Commission CHAPTER 13: FISHERIES*. Available at: [https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/chapter\\_13\\_fisheries.pdf](https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/chapter_13_fisheries.pdf) (Accessed: 22 December 2023)

<sup>7</sup> FAO (2019). *Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles, Moldova*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/facp/mda?lang=en> (Accessed: 22 December 2023)

<sup>8</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.56 dated February 17, 2023 "On approval of the National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030", (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)



of the country's active population. The share of informal (without official contract) employees in agriculture reached 61.8%.

Most farmers (97.7%) are small-scale, with farm sizes ranging between 0.85 and 10 hectares. The contributions of smallholders and family farms are vital to the sector, as they generate 63% of the country's total agricultural production (including home-processed food) and contribute to maintaining the biodiversity of rural areas<sup>9</sup>.

The country has favourable soil resources and conditions for agricultural production, with the black fertile soils ideal for producing fruits and vegetables and various other crops. Horticulture, viticulture (grape cultivation), and cereal production are the mainstays of agricultural production. The main agricultural products include cereals, grapes, pigs, poultry, milk, fruits, and vegetables. These seven products drive 90% of the farm production. However, further growth and development opportunities exist in subsectors including orchards, vineyards, wineries, crop production, food processing, seed production and aquaculture.

Several challenges hamper the efficiency and productivity of the country's agricultural sector. These include insufficient adaptation of the cultivation technologies to meet the challenges of climate change, lack of proper land and water management, poor water quality (pollution caused by nutrient runoff), soil erosion, overgrazing, and degradation of native forests and ecosystem services<sup>10</sup>. It should be noted that farmland in Moldova is not fully utilised, with an estimated 18-20% of the agricultural land area not cultivated because of non-use by landowners<sup>11</sup>. Meanwhile, Moldova has the highest percentage of farmland in Europe (73.7% of its total area is used in agriculture) and the lowest forested area compared to the total country area.

The Republic of Moldova has become increasingly visible on the EU organic products market in recent years. The import volume of organic agri-food products in the EU from the Republic of Moldova was 22,321 tonnes in 2020, which places the Republic of Moldova in the top 20 most important partners of the EU in this regard<sup>12</sup>. Moldova continues to promote organic agriculture to ensure the sustainable development of

---

<sup>9</sup> FAO (2020). *Smallholders and family farms in the Republic of Moldova. Country study report 2019*. Budapest. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9836en>

<sup>10</sup> World Bank (2019). *Climate Smart Agriculture in Moldova*. Available at: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/CSA%20Moldova.pdf> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

<sup>11</sup> Gherciu, Viorel; Rundgren, Gunnar (2017). "The Status and Potential of Organic Agriculture in the Republic of Moldova", *UN Environment Programme*. Available at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22962/The%20Status%20and%20Potential%20of%20Organic%20Agriculture%20in%20the%20Republic%20of%20Moldova.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

<sup>12</sup> Invest Moldova (2020). *Organic Agriculture*. Available at: <https://invest.gov.md/en/sectors/organik-agriculture> (Accessed: 20 December 2023)



natural resources and foresees new opportunities to expand organic production for the export market.

As an agricultural landlocked country, Moldova has relied heavily on Ukrainian trading routes to connect with the rest of the world. Supply chain and trade disruptions caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict have sharply increased food and energy prices, meaning food insecurity has risen. Furthermore, severe drought in 2020 has affected agricultural production, cutting cereal production by almost half compared to the past five-year average.<sup>13</sup>

According to the latest Global Nutrition report,<sup>14</sup> Moldova has shown limited progress towards achieving the diet-related non-communicable disease (NCD) targets. 22.9% of adult (aged 18 years and over) women and 18.3% of adult men are living with obesity. In 2019, Moldova produced its first dietary guidelines, “Guide to Good Practice: rational nutrition, food safety and changing nutrition behaviours”, which guides healthy eating practices<sup>15</sup>. Moreover, one quarter of the population was moderately or severely food insecure in 2020<sup>16</sup>, with the vulnerability to food insecurity being determined by the low incomes of the population and the significant share of household expenditure on food. In December 2023, Moldova signed the COP28 UAE Declaration on climate and health, recognising the need to shift towards healthy and sustainable diets.

The agri-food sector in Moldova faces several key challenges. The sector is characterised, in many cases, by low productivity due to a lack of an overall economic vision based on available dependence on significant quantities of fertilisers and pesticides, inefficient local food processing (generating added value) and excessive reliance on government subsidies. The dependence on large-scale agricultural companies producing low-value crops is another major issue. Climate change is an external factor that significantly influences the sector's productivity because of poor implementation of climate-smart technologies, including crop irrigation, water conservation techniques, and best agronomic practices. These challenges directly impact the rural population, which heavily depends on the sector<sup>17</sup>. Despite these issues, the sector also has some notable strengths. Moldova's agricultural sector has

---

<sup>13</sup> WFP (2022). *Moldova Annual Country Report 2022*. Available at:

<https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000147972/download/> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

<sup>14</sup> Global Nutrition Report (2022). *Moldova Country Nutrition Profile*. Available at:

<https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/europe/eastern-europe/republic-moldova/> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

<sup>15</sup> Moldova Ministry of Health (2019). *Guide to Good Practice: rational nutrition, food safety and changing nutrition behaviours*. Available at: [https://library.usmf.md/sites/default/files/2019-06/ghid\\_nutritie\\_romana\\_CIP\\_electronic.pdf](https://library.usmf.md/sites/default/files/2019-06/ghid_nutritie_romana_CIP_electronic.pdf) (Accessed: 21 December 2023)

<sup>16</sup> FAO (2022). *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0639en/cc0639en.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Petrea et al. (2020). Perspectives of the Moldavian Agricultural Sector by Using a Custom-Developed Analytical Framework. *Sustainability* 2020, 12(11), 4671; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12114671>



high potential for high-value crop production, particularly organic and horticultural production. Furthermore, the country has preferential access to the EU market, providing free trade opportunities.

The main development goals in Moldova's agri-food sector align with the broader goals of the European Green Deal (EGD). Key objectives include improving food security governance to prevent and handle crises more effectively<sup>18</sup> and integrating agricultural development and climate responsiveness, for instance, by applying climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices<sup>19</sup>. However, adopting CSA practices faces several hurdles, for example, limited access to technical assistance and financial resources, especially for small-scale farmers. Therefore, other less capital- and more knowledge-intensive approaches are needed, such as regenerative agriculture, permaculture, and other agroecological approaches<sup>20</sup>. In November 2022, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova also adopted a food loss and waste reduction law with beneficial implications for food security, nutrition, and environmental protection and aligned with EGD goals<sup>21</sup>. Moldova also aims to streamline its business regulatory framework to attract investment and boost exports<sup>22</sup>, aligning with the EGD's goal to stimulate sustainable growth and job creation. Overcoming these challenges requires the development of policy and institutional mechanisms, strengthened early warning systems, and investment in rural infrastructure.

Moldova is fully committed to the Paris Agreement's objectives with an economy-wide unconditional target to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 70% below its 1990 level in 2030<sup>23</sup>. Moldova signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change declaration on sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems at COP28 in December 2023. In 2021, Moldova reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 69% compared to 1990, with agricultural emissions estimated to have fallen by 26%<sup>24</sup> (There

---

<sup>18</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.775 dated November 9, 2022 "On approval of the National Strategy for Food Security in the Republic of Moldova for 2023-2030", (2022). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=135003&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=135003&lang=ro)

<sup>19</sup> World Bank; CIAT (2016). *Climate-Smart Agriculture Country Profile*. Available at: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/CSA%20Moldova.pdf> (Accessed: 21 December 2023)

<sup>20</sup> Food, Farming and Countryside Commission (2020). *Farming Smarter: the case for agroecological enterprise*. Available at: <https://ffcc.co.uk/publications/farming-smarter-report> (Accessed: 21 December 2023)

<sup>21</sup> FAO (2022). *Moldova approves the Law on Food Loss and Waste Reduction*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/save-food/news-and-multimedia/news/news-details/en/c/1627474/> (Accessed: 21 December, 2023)

<sup>22</sup> OECD (2020). *Promoting Exports and Supply-Chain Linkages in the Food Industry in the Republic of Moldova*. Available at: <https://www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/eastern-partners/Promoting-Exports-and-Supply-Chain-Linkages-in-the-Food-Industry-in-the-Republic-of-Moldova-ENG.pdf> (Accessed: 20 December, 2023)

<sup>23</sup> Government of Moldova (2022). *Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of the Republic of Moldova*. Available at: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/MD\\_Updated\\_NDC\\_final\\_version\\_EN.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/MD_Updated_NDC_final_version_EN.pdf) (Accessed: 20 December, 2023)

<sup>24</sup> UNDP (2021). *The Republic of Moldova reduced greenhouse gas emissions by approx. 69% compared to 1990 and set ambitious targets for 2030*. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/ro/moldova/press-releases/republica-moldova-reduce-emisiile-de-gaze-cu-efect-de-ser%4%83-cu-aprox-69-fa%8%9B%4%83-de-anul-1990-%C8%99i-stabilit-obiective-ambi%8%9Bioase> (Accessed: 20 December, 2023)



is no data for wider food system emissions). In 2020, 11.3% of the total national GHG originated from agriculture.<sup>25</sup> Enteric fermentation, manure management, and manure applied to soils are the largest sources of emissions from the agriculture sector in Moldova.<sup>26</sup> Within the country's climate action plan, there is a commitment to actively promote the implementation of climate-resilient agricultural practices through a wide range of practices (fertiliser application optimisation, crop diversification, better irrigation, improved soil health, etc). Moldova has a National Climate Change Adaptation Program (up to 2030) and an Action Plan, designed to enhance climate resilience in the country, which was approved by the Government of the Republic of Moldova on 30 August 2023. The Program was developed with the support of the UNDP Moldova project “Advancing Moldova’s national climate change adaptation planning”, funded by the Green Climate Fund.

**Table 1. Relevant statistics/indicators for the country's agriculture profile**

Relevant statistics/indicators	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Comments
<b>Agriculture share of GDP (%)</b> <sup>27</sup>	11.9%	11.7%	11.0%	10.59% <sup>28</sup>	7.92% <sup>29</sup>	
<b>Agri-food and fisheries sector contribution to GDP (%) (agri-food and fishing)</b> <sup>30</sup>	13.46%	3.52%	12.75%	13.87%	11.83%	

<sup>25</sup> Moldova National Inventory Report 1990-2020: <https://unfccc.int/documents/627101>.

<sup>26</sup> EU4Climate (2023). *Republic of Moldova*. Available at: <https://eu4climate.eu/moldova/#:~:text=The%20total%20national%20direct%20GHG,Mt%20CO2%20eq> (Accessed: 16 April 2024)

<sup>27</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.56 dated February 17, 2023 “On approval of the National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030”, (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)

<sup>28</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023) *National Accounts*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/13\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/13_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 20 December 2023)

<sup>29</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023) *National Accounts*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/13\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/13_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 20 December 2023)

<sup>30</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023) *National Accounts*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/13\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/13_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 22 December 2023)





<b>Numbers employed in the agri-food sector and fisheries<sup>31</sup></b>	39.3% <sup>32</sup>	21.0%	21.1%	21.5%	20.8% <sup>33</sup>	
<b>Land under agricultural production in % (of the total land area)<sup>34</sup></b>	68.6%	68.8%	68.9%	73.6% <sup>35</sup>	73.7% <sup>36</sup>	
<b>Value and percentage of exports that are food<sup>37</sup></b>	-	-	-	\$1,421,088 -45,19%	\$1,921,971 -44,37%	45.72% for 2015
<b>Value and percentage of food imports<sup>38</sup></b>	-	-	-	\$703,030 -9,8%	\$948,580 -10,29%	10.37% for 2015

## 1.2 Key statistics and trends of the thematic area

This chapter includes a short overview of key relevant and available statistics on the state of the Republic of Moldova's food system, which is related to the EGD and the EU Farm to Fork Strategy, to which the Moldovan food system is adhering. Thus, this section sets the stage for assessing the position of the food system of Moldova for the green transition in line with EU Farm to Fork targets and indicators, so for each area, the indicators are provided, considering the main goals of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy:

- **Building the food chain that works for consumers, producers, the climate, and the environment**

<sup>31</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023) *Labour Force*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/3\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/3_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 19 December, 2023)

<sup>32</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023) *Labour Force*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/3\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/3_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 19 December, 2023)

<sup>33</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023) *Labour Force*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/3\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/3_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 19 December, 2023)

<sup>34</sup> World Bank (2023). *Agricultural Land (% of land area) Moldova*. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.AGRI.ZS?locations=MD> (Accessed: 19 December, 2023)

<sup>35</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *Agriculture*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/16\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/16_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 20 December 2023)

<sup>36</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *Agriculture*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/16\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/16_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 20 December 2023)

<sup>37</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *International Trade in Goods*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/20\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/20_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 19 December 2023)

<sup>38</sup> National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *International Trade in Goods*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/20\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/20_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 19 December 2023)



This is a priority of the Moldovan Government, and it is reflected in the approved National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development 2023-2030 (NARDS 2030)<sup>39</sup> NARDS 2030 corresponds to the provisions of the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030" and the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union. This document's strategic vision is to develop a competitive agri-food sector focused on value chains with high potential, environmentally friendly, and climate resilient, which will strengthen food security and safety and provide better welfare and living conditions in rural areas.

- **Ensuring sustainable food production**

The table below shows that in Moldova, the share of the agriculture sector compared to national GHG emissions decreased from 1.99 million tonnes (Mt) to 1.54 Mt from 2018 to 2020. This has been achieved by implementing sustainable, environmentally friendly, competitive technologies, such as no-till or minimum-tillage agriculture, which increases climate resilience and reduces and optimises the use of inputs. Better access to knowledge, financial resources, and technologies is necessary to reduce GHG emissions further.

In 2020, 11.3% of the total national GHG originated from agriculture.<sup>40</sup> A national monitoring, reporting and verification system was put in place in 2019 through the adoption of a regulation on measuring, reporting and verifying greenhouse gas emissions, in compliance with the respective transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

The total national direct GHG emissions (without land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF)) decreased in the Republic of Moldova during the 1990-2020 period by 69.8%, from 45.25 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 1990 to 13.66 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2020. In its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Republic of Moldova has committed to more ambitious targets than its first NDC. The country's new economy-wide unconditional target is to reduce its GHG emissions by 70% below its 1990 level in 2030, instead of 64-67% as committed in the first NDC, which could be further increased to 88%, if international low-cost financial resources, technology transfer, and technical cooperation are ensured.

---

<sup>39</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.56 dated February 17, 2023 "On approval of the National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030", (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)

<sup>40</sup> Moldova National Inventory Report 1990-2020: <https://unfccc.int/documents/627101>





In agriculture, pollutants and particulate matter have decreased compared with the reference year 1990.<sup>41</sup>

Despite state support for organic production in recent years, this sector has made modest progress. According to the data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (see table below), in the last five years, the area of organic production slightly increased from approximately 21,000/ha to 27,000/ha—this is still only 1.5% of the arable area.

From 2000 to 2020, the volume of fish in ponds showed sustainable growth. During this period, the quantity of domestic fish production has increased. It represents more than 12,000 tonnes or 25% of the fish and fish products consumed, including: carp – 3,164 tonnes, crucian carp – 500 tonnes, grass carp – 780 tonnes, silver carp – 4,321 tonnes, bighead carp – 2,379 tonnes, European catfish – 1.1 tonnes, and zander – 21 tonnes. This has increased domestic fish's per capita consumption from 0.5 (the year 2000) to 4.6 kg (the year 2020) per year.

Approximately two-thirds of the fish consumed in the Republic of Moldova are imported, primarily from marine resources. Since 2010, imports and trade in fish and fish products have registered a decline: from 22,513 tonnes (2010) to 18,863 tonnes (2015), and then by 2020, this amount increased to 23,185 tonnes. Currently, industrial aquaculture is being developed in the Transnistrian Region through intensive farming in recirculating water systems, including sturgeon species and hybrids.<sup>42</sup> According to FAO<sup>43</sup>, fisheries and aquaculture activities in Moldova are spread along the natural waterways of the Dniester and Prut rivers as well as in man-made reservoirs. There is no documented or registered list of lakes, but unsatisfactory water quality is one of the main causes of increased production costs, low aquaculture profitability, and the increased price of fresh fish.

The import and application of mineral fertilisers increased from 319 thousand tons to 399 thousand tons between 2018 and 2021, then decreased to 216 thousand tons in 2022 due to the war in Ukraine and the interruption of logistic supply channels. The negative effects of bad management of chemical fertilisation have caused soil and groundwater pollution with nitrates. The ineffective control of animal waste is also a significant source of soil and water pollution. Considering the EU's best practices and

---

<sup>41</sup> Institute of Chemistry (2021). *The Republic of Moldova Informative Inventory Report 2021*. Available at: [https://webdab01.umweltbundesamt.at/download/submissions2021/MD\\_IIR2021.zip?cgiproxy\\_skip=1](https://webdab01.umweltbundesamt.at/download/submissions2021/MD_IIR2021.zip?cgiproxy_skip=1) (Accessed: 24 December 2023)

<sup>42</sup> Government of the Republic of Moldova (2022). *Information provided by the Government of the Republic of Moldova to the Questionnaire of the European Commission CHAPTER 13: FISHERIES*. Available at: [https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/chapter\\_13\\_fisheries.pdf](https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/chapter_13_fisheries.pdf) (Accessed: 22 December 2023)

<sup>43</sup> FAO (2024). *Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles. Moldova, Republic of, 2019. Country Profile Fact Sheets. In: Fisheries and Aquaculture*. Rome. Updated Jan 21, 2013. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/facp/mda?lang=en> (Accessed: 23 December 2023).



legislation, there is a need to improve the containment, distribution, control and use of animal wastes. In this context, the European Environment Agency<sup>44</sup> data showed a sharp increase in nitrate concentration in freshwaters from 1992 to 2017. More than half of the sites on rivers in Moldova now have low nitrate concentrations (< 2.0 mg N/l). In contrast, almost half of the river sites in Moldova are moderately to highly polluted with phosphorus. This may indicate a lack of wastewater treatment and increased use of phosphate-based detergents throughout the area.

Unfortunately, publicly available data on the use of veterinary antibiotics in Moldova only covers the last three years. However, many European countries have substantially reduced sales of veterinary antibiotics.<sup>45</sup>

### • Ensuring food security

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has destabilised and substantially disrupted international and regional logistics and agricultural markets, which were already fragile because of the Covid-19 pandemic, increased energy costs, fuel and fertilisers, and climate change and drought influence from the last five years. In this context, Moldova faces significant risks in the field of agricultural production and food security for various reasons:

- Reduced agri-food production due to repeated droughts in 2017, 2020, and 2022; lower output of cereals, oilseeds, fruits, and vegetables; and reduced livestock production.
- Increased input prices (gas, electricity, fertilisers) led to a 30-45% price increase for all Moldovan agricultural and agri-food products.
- Increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) compared to April 2022 and 2021, increasing by approximately 30.2% and reducing the purchasing power of domestic consumers.
- Partial loss of sales markets for approx. 15% of agricultural exports to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) markets and a decrease of exports by about 150 million USD, which reduced GDP by about 1.0%.
- Additional transport costs for exporting agricultural products to foreign markets (an additional 1,600 km) per year for products exported by approx. 180-190 million USD with a 1.4% reduction in GDP.

---

<sup>44</sup> European Environment Agency (2020). *C11 – Nutrients in freshwaters of the Republic of Moldova*. Available at: <https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/indicators/c112013-nutrients-in-freshwaters-of-the-republic-of-moldova> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

<sup>45</sup> Global Ag Media (2023). *Antimicrobial use in EU animals reaches lowest level ever*. Available at: <https://www.thecattlesite.com/news/antimicrobial-use-in-eu-animals-reaches-lowest-level-ever> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)



In this context, the Government of Moldova developed and adopted in 2022 the Food Security Strategy 2023-2030<sup>46</sup> (FSS).

**According to the FSS, the required amount of calories in the Republic of Moldova's population's diet is generally adequately provided. The average daily level of energy intake from food consumption per capita is at the level the World Health Organisation recommends.**

- Vulnerability to food insecurity is determined by the low incomes of the population and the significant share of expenditures for food, utilities, transport, and telecommunications, which averages 68.1% per country.
- The share of food expenditure of 41.9% is about three times higher than in the European Union.
- The absolute poverty rate was 24.5% in 2021, with significant differences on average: 32.8% in rural areas and 11.9% in urban areas. This was fuelled by a difference in the average income per person of 27% of the population between rural and urban areas.
- Food availability in the Republic of Moldova is not a significant challenge, but production is volatile. The population's needs are met mainly by domestic production, with imports covering the gaps.
- **Stimulating sustainable food processing, wholesale, retail, hospitality, and food service practices**

Food processing is a central pillar of manufacturing, and Moldova's agricultural capacities are a strong asset for food processing. This sector accounts for 37% of total manufacturing output and 26% of employment in the manufacturing sector. In 2018, among the 993 firms registered in the sector, 100 were large or medium-sized companies, accounting for 78% of total employment. Food production is dominated by processing and preserving meat products, followed by other products, such as fruit and vegetables, fish and seafood, vegetable/animal oils and fats, and dairy. In the Moldovan food-processing sector, participation in global value chains (GVCs) usually takes the form of forward trade linkages through exports of goods or forward domestic linkages through integration into the supply chain of large retailers. Better participation in GVCs through exports or supply chain linkages with large enterprises allows SMEs to scale up production, broaden their skills and benefit from productivity gains, organisational improvements, innovation and technology spillovers.<sup>47</sup> The SME

---

<sup>46</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.775 dated November 9, 2022 "On approval of the National Strategy for Food Security in the Republic of Moldova for 2023-2030", (2022). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=135003&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=135003&lang=ro)

<sup>47</sup> OECD (2020). *Promoting Exports and Supply-Chain Linkages in the Food Industry in the Republic of Moldova*, OECD Publishing, Paris. Available at: [www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/easternpartners/Promoting-Exports-and-Supply-Chain-Linkages-in-the-Food-Industry-in-the-Republic-ofMoldova-ENG.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/easternpartners/Promoting-Exports-and-Supply-Chain-Linkages-in-the-Food-Industry-in-the-Republic-ofMoldova-ENG.pdf) (Accessed: 20 December 2023)



Development Strategy 2012-2020 and its Action Plan 2018-2020 has focused on the promotion the internationalisation of SMEs operating in the food-processing sector by: (i) fostering linkages between local food processors and retailers (supermarkets), and (ii) enhancing the capacity of local SMEs to access foreign markets directly;

- **Promoting sustainable food consumption and facilitating the shift to healthy, sustainable diets**

According to a report by the Ministry of Health, around 64% (6 out of 10) of people are overweight, and 20% are obese.<sup>48</sup> There is an urgent need to promote healthier dietary choices and lifestyles so that in the future we achieve a change in behaviour in favour of healthy habits, practise physical activity, give up the consumption of tobacco, reduce alcohol consumption, replacing it with a responsible consumption concept, and have a healthy diet with less salt, sugar, and fat.

According to the latest Global Nutrition Report<sup>49</sup> Moldova has shown limited progress towards achieving the diet-related NCD targets. 22.9% of adult (aged 18 years and over) women and 18.3% of adult men are living with obesity. In 2019, Moldova produced its first dietary guidelines, "Guide to Good Practice: rational nutrition, food safety and changing nutrition behaviours," which guides healthy eating practices.

- **Reduce food loss and waste**

In November 2022, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted a food loss and waste reduction law (there are no specific waste reduction targets) with beneficial implications for food security, nutrition, and environmental protection and aligned with EGD goals. Moldova also aims to streamline its business regulatory framework to attract investment and boost exports, aligning with the EGD's goal to stimulate sustainable growth and job creation. Overcoming these challenges requires the development of policy and institutional mechanisms, strengthened early warning systems, and investment in rural infrastructure.

Most food losses in Moldova are primarily from damage and losses during harvest and post-harvest (storage, transport and handling). The country's poor quality of storage facilities is another problem, resulting in excessive losses of potatoes, apples and vegetables stored through the winter. Limited access to cold storage and sanitation also results in losses in meat and milk production. There are further and higher percentage losses and waste of fresh produce, fruit and vegetables, milk and meat,

---

<sup>48</sup> Radio Moldova (2023). *Statistics: About 64% of Moldovans are overweight*. Available at: <https://radiomoldova.md/p/3129/statistics-about-64-of-moldovans-are-overweight> (Accessed: 20 December 2023)

<sup>49</sup> <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/europe/eastern-europe/republic-moldova/> (Accessed: 22 April 2025)



sold by household producers through local markets because of insufficient refrigeration and sanitation facilities through such sub-chains.

Supplementary statistical indicators relevant to the abovementioned matters can be accessed in the table below.

**Table 2. Relevant statistics/indicators for the Farm to Fork thematic area**

Relevant statistics/indicators	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Comments
<b>GHGs and land use</b>						
<b>Agriculture-related GHG emissions<sup>50</sup> (million tonnes Mt)</b>	1.99 Mt	1.94 Mt	1.54Mt	N/A	N/A	For 2020, agricultural-related GHGs are calculated/deducted according to the Moldova-EU4 Climate page's available data.
<b>Food system's GHG emissions</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No data available
<b>Area of land under organic production (or agroecological production)</b>	20,584.44 ha	28,547.45 ha	29,352.2 ha	23,756.81 ha	26,848.3 ha	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
<b>Environmental impact</b>						
<b>Usage (consumption/import) of fertilizers (tonnes/year)</b>	319,624	335,242	350,860	399,512	216,400	Program for sustainable management of chemicals for the years 2023-2030 <sup>51</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Note: GHG emissions from food system are often annotated as GHG equivalents (GHGEs) and emissions include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides.

<sup>51</sup> State Chancellery (2023) *Regarding the approval of the Sustainable Chemicals Management Program for the years 2023-2030, the Action Plan for its implementation for the years 2023-2030 and the Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for years 2023-2030 (unique number 510/MM/2023)*. Available at: <https://cancelaria.gov.md/ro/content/cu-privire-la-aprobarea-programului-de-management-durabil-al-substantelor-chimice-pentru>



## Moldova

<b>Usage (consumption) of pesticides (tonnes/year)</b>	4,490.807	4,105.3	4,354.135	4,078.077	4,713.132	Program for sustainable management of chemicals for the years 2023-2030
<b>Water quality 1 – number of nitrate pollution incidents<sup>52</sup>. (where data is available)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	58 cases of acute nitrate intoxication, of which 47 cases or 81% were among children
<b>Water quality 2 – number of pesticide pollution incidents (where data is available)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	During the years 2017-2021, following the penetration of pesticides into the human body, including 443 cases of intoxication, 18 people died. The number of children intoxicated with pesticides was 131 (30%) cases, including five children who died. <a href="https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/subject-15-nu-753-ms-2023.pdf">https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/subject-15-nu-753-ms-2023.pdf</a>
<b>Quantity of farmed fish sourced from sustainable fisheries (MSC/ASC, etc), tonnes/year.</b>	12,500	12,680	12,900	N/A	N/A	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
<b>Food lost and wasted I) Agriculture (1000 tonnes/country)  II) Processing and manufacturing (1000 tonnes/country)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<a href="https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attach">https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attach</a>

<sup>52</sup> Note: EU Nitrates Directive and EU Drinking Water Directive limit of 50 mg/l



## Moldova

III) Retail and consumption (kg/capita)						<a href="#">ments/nu-328-mm-2023.pdf</a>  Agriculture is the basic branch of the national economy, and the food and beverage industry generates the largest amounts of waste in the Republic of Moldova  Waste related to the food and beverage industry is 2500-3000 thousand tons for 2018-2022  GD No. 248 dd 10-04-2013  Regarding approving the Waste Management Strategy in the Republic of Moldova for 2013-2027.
Sustainable food consumption/Health and food security						
Meat consumption (kg per capita)	52.6	55.6	56.5	56.9	N/A	
Sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture (tonnes)	N/A	N/A	14,634	49,613	16,176	
Number of people who are food insecure	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	



Number of people (adults) who are obese and overweight	N/A	N/A	N/A	23% 63.9% <sup>53</sup>	N/A	
--	-----	-----	-----	----------------------------	-----	--

## 2. Farm to Fork stakeholder mapping

The section on Farm to Fork (F2F) stakeholder mapping includes key actors from the agriculture and food sector and actors from other supporting or accompanying sectors, which are crucial for the green transition. These sectors are environment, health, economy, and social protection (Table 3). Such a multidisciplinary approach to Farm to Fork is crucial as the main issues in agriculture and food systems arise from the excessive silos dividing the areas and respective institutions.

### 1. Policy and decision-makers

Policy and decision-makers are the first group of key national stakeholders for the green transition. In Moldova, this group can be split into ministries with competencies in specialised areas and subordinate executive structures. In addition to the central public authorities, the local public authorities (LPA) possess various competences in land planning and natural resource management. They are, therefore, key actors in achieving the goals of the green transition at the community level.

The government agencies in the environment and public health domain, as well as researchers, are strategically important actors to drive the transition, as they collect and analyse relevant data and its impact on population and economic development (the externalised costs of conventional agriculture and food systems). The environmental sector's public institutions are responsible for protecting soil, water, air, and forests. The institutions under the Ministry of Environment include Moldova Waters, Moldsilva, the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, and the Environmental Agency.

The economy is another important sector that underpins the green transition across agri-food systems. Therefore, the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation (MEDD) is crucial in developing an economic model prioritising sustainable agriculture approaches.

The competences and the roles of public authorities in agriculture in Moldova are divided as indicated in Table 3, with the ministry having specialised directions for animals, vegetable production, organic agriculture and Geographic Identification (GI)

---

<sup>53</sup> World Obesity (2021). *Obesity prevalence. Moldova*. Available at: <https://data.worldobesity.org/country/moldova-141/#data-prevalence> (Accessed: 29 December 2023)





labels. Although the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) is a key policymaker, the National Agency for Food Safety is a key implementing actor and, therefore, is a strategically relevant institution in assessing whether the new policy will work in practice.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is responsible for leaving no one behind, thus making the agriculture and food systems inclusive for people of different ages, genders, and social contexts. This ministry has the least weight in the policy and decision-making for Farm to Fork, although its input is significant in addressing human rights aspects.

Consistent and purposeful F2F coordination between the ministries outlined above is needed. The State Chancellery (SC) is the central public body coordinating at the government level; it will play a key role in orchestrating food and agriculture policy across sectors at the highest political level.

**Table 3. Policy and decision-makers from relevant to F2F at different levels**

Sector/level	Government	SC	Government institutions	Regional/local actors (public/private/research)
Environment	Minister	Inter-ministerial coordination by	Ministry of Environment	Local public authorities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moldsilva</li><li>• Inspectorate for Environmental Protection</li><li>• Environmental Agency</li><li>• Moldova Waters</li></ul>	
Health	Minister		Ministry of Health	Regional and local health centres (also co-funded by the National Health Insurance Company)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Nicolae Testemitanu” State University of Medicine and Pharmacy</li></ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Agency for Public Health</li></ul>	
Economy	Minister		Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation	Local public authorities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organisation for the Development of Entrepreneurship</li></ul>		



<b>Agriculture</b>	Minister and Vice Prime Minister		Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry	Local public authorities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture</li> <li>Research institutes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Action Groups (LAGs), including the LEADER network</li> </ul>
<b>Social dimension</b>	Minister		National Agency for Food Safety	
			Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	Local public authorities
			Social State Inspectorate	

## 2. Academia and research

This group includes research institutes and universities with activities focused on food and agriculture, the environment, and health. These include Technical University of Moldova with its faculties in the area of agrarian and food sciences; the Institute of Genetics, Physiology and Plant Protection; the Institute of Horticulture and Food Technologies; the Scientific-Practical Institute of Biotechnologies in Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine; the Institute of Pedology, Agrochemistry and Soil Protection; the Field Crops Institute "Selectia", the Phytothecnics Institute "Porumbeni", the National Center for Research and Production of Seeds<sup>54</sup> and the Taul Centre of Excellence in Horticulture and Agricultural Technologies. Several of these institutes collaborate with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), upscaling agroecological approaches and respective practices.

## 3. CSOs and specialised agri-food organisations

Specialised farmers' agri-food producers' organisations (in the areas of milk and dairy, meat, grain, wine, vegetable production, etc.) and the CSOS, the National Association for Rural Development (ACSA)<sup>55</sup>, and Agroinform<sup>56</sup> are crucial to mainstreaming environmental and health issues across the food value chain. For instance, ACSA and Agroinform have played an essential role in knowledge transfer, creating an extension services network for farmers, and raising awareness about the needs and benefits of some environmentally friendly agriculture practices.

<sup>54</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 791 dated October 18, 2023 "Regarding the National Center Public Institution of Research and Seed Production and to modification of some decisions of the Government", (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=139799&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=139799&lang=ro)

<sup>55</sup> <https://acsa.md/about-us/> (Accessed: 22 April 2025)

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.agroinform.md/en/about.html> (Accessed: 22 April 2025)



The specialised farmers and producers' associations, in their turn, developed expertise in their specific fields and can provide insights on specific difficulties and opportunities for the green transition. For instance, some producers of grain face difficulties due to the low price of grain, and these specialised organisations can provide specific advice on how alternative approaches can reduce their costs of production (e.g., using organic fertilisers by cooperating with the local animal producers, or sharing equipment with the community) and can increase their profitability (e.g., change the crop varieties, crop rotation etc).

It is important to note that some resistance might be encountered from farmers and producers, but this is mainly due to their lack of knowledge regarding the economic benefits of more holistic and nature-based/climate-friendly approaches to production.

Several CSOs work across various sectors, including environment, human rights, agriculture, and food (e.g., Biotica, EcoTiras, Gradina Moldovei, AgroVisio, ProRural Invest, SPPN, Healthy Principles, Ecology for Health). They often complement the agricultural vision of policymakers/decision makers with a more community— and place-based approach, which is managed by these communities.

#### 4. International Organisations and Funders

The international **organisations that fund projects for sustainable agriculture in Moldova are significant**. For example, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) funds climate-smart agriculture with the Farmer Field Schools, the World Bank funds the "Agriculture Governance, Growth and Resilience Investment Project" and GIZ funds the "PROGRESS" project. USAID has also funded projects focused mainly on performance and technology in agricultural development.

The groups of stakeholders who could be **blocking the transition to sustainable food systems** and the EU Farm to Fork goals are usually the input providers, including the consultants in extension services, who might be partially paid through partnerships or commission.

**Obstacles to stakeholder engagement:** One obstacle to stakeholder engagement is a lack of knowledge about mandatory public consultations. Moreover, little time is usually given for the feedback, even when the public is informed about consultations. Another highly relevant obstacle is the silo mentality and a lack of systemic approach to agriculture and food systems at MAFI, seeing agriculture and food systems, and organic agriculture as a niche and not a mainstream. Lastly, there is a lack of capacity. For instance, current research and academia providing evidence to MAFI are working mainly on technical aspects related to agriculture and food (practices, technology). Still, there is no research on policy and law on the respective topics. Thus, agronomy, environment or public health experts might not always get engaged in relevant policy processes.



## 3. Farm to Fork gap assessment

This section provides an overview of the main gaps between Moldova's current food-related environmental and climate policy plans and those proposed in the EU Farm to Fork strategy, together with any institutional and sectoral capacity limitations.

### 3.1 Policy and legal framework

#### 3.1.1 Strategic and planning documents, goals, and targets

##### **An overview of food system- international agreements, commitments, and respective objectives/ targets**

In 2022, the Government of the Republic of Moldova approved the National Development Strategy (NDS) “European Moldova” (NDS 2030),<sup>57</sup> which is the main policy document for developing all sectors, including those relevant to agriculture and food systems. The strategy explicitly refers to the Association Agreement between Moldova and the EU and UN Agenda 2030 as the primary reference documents. The NDS 2030 states that “according to commitments regarding sustainable development, the following strategic targets are to be implemented by 2030:

- ensuring resilience to climate change by reducing risks related to climate change (SDG 13.1);
- reduction of water pollution, including through terrestrial activities (SDG 14.1);
- combating soil degradation (SDG 15.3);
- integration of biodiversity values into policies (ODD 15.9);
- Implement sustainable forest management and increase afforestation and reforestation (SDG 15.2).”

The details of sectoral objectives are provided below:

Moldova is party to several international treaties and agreements relevant to different dimensions of food systems. For instance, one of the strategic areas for agriculture in Moldova is the production of seeds. According to several profile researchers, the country used to be self-sufficient and export seeds (in times of the USSR). One of the most relevant agreements in this regard is the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA or Plant Treaty)<sup>58</sup>. As mentioned in the

---

<sup>57</sup> Decree by the President of the Republic of Moldova No.741 dated December 19, 2022 on the promulgation of the Law for the approval of the Strategy national development “Moldova European 2030”, (2022). Moldova President [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=134581&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134581&lang=ro)

<sup>58</sup> FAO (2024). International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/en/> (Accessed: 15 January 2024)



legal proposal on seed law, 70% of seeds in Moldova are imported nowadays.<sup>59</sup> The Plant Treaty includes several key provisions necessary for the seeds sub-branch of agriculture and for developing organic agriculture in Moldova. Several legal initiatives have emerged in the past few years to implement them. Regarding the environmental dimension, Moldova is party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which reflect the climate and biodiversity objectives of its agriculture and environmental strategies.

As to social policy and governance of food systems, the following international commitments are most relevant: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP), Aarhus Convention, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC or UNCRC)<sup>60</sup>, Rome Declaration on Nutrition<sup>61</sup>, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Several of these conventions emphasise the importance of nutrition and the right to food. For instance, nutrition is mentioned three times in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, by emphasising food, health, and care, the Convention clarifies that good nutrition should be regarded as a fundamental human right. Moreover, as a party to ICESCR, Moldova has also subscribed to the FAO Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realisation of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. Recently, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has issued a report on the ICESCR<sup>62</sup>. It makes a strong case for developing the country's nutritional surveillance system. According to the report, the state “has assumed by 2030 the eradication of all forms of malnutrition and addressing the nutritional needs of teenage girls, pregnant and lactating women, as well as the elderly, and increasing agricultural productivity and the income of small agricultural producers by ensuring safe and equal access to factors of production, knowledge, financial and market services”. Several regulatory instruments have been used to implement this commitment. It is also worth mentioning that the right to food is explicit in the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova (a rare case). According to Art. 47 (right to social assistance and protection), “the State shall be obliged to take measures so that everyone has a decent standard of living, which will ensure the health and well-being of him and his family, including food, [...]”.

---

<sup>59</sup> State Chancellery (2023). The Government's decision regarding the approval of the draft law to amend Law 68/2013 on seeds. Available at: <https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/nu-1143-maia-2023.pdf>

<sup>60</sup> UN (1989). Convention on the Rights of the Child. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child> (Accessed: 15 January 2024)

<sup>61</sup> FAO (2024). The Rome Declaration on Nutrition. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/news-archive/news-detail/en/c/266259/> (Accessed: 16 January 2024)

<sup>62</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (2022). *The national REPORT on the implementation of the International Pact regarding economic, social and cultural rights*. Available at: <https://social.gov.md/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Raport-Pactul-international-privind-drepturile-economice-sociale-si-culturale-2022c.pdf> (Accessed: 16 January 2024)



Another highly important international commitment is the Aarhus Convention, which ensures environmental democracy through its three pillars: access to information, public participation and access to justice.

### Relevant national strategic and planning documents in the food system

As highlighted in section 2, the key pertinent institutions to F2F and the green transition are health, social, and economic, in addition to agriculture and the environment.

**1. The first and the main guiding document for food systems in Moldova is the overall National Development Strategy (NDS, 2022)<sup>63</sup>.** The vision and primary strategic objective of NDS are centred on the quality of life. Improving the quality of life is based on several key elements, which put people at the centre of public policy, reform, and development processes. Their final objective is to improve people's living standards and strengthen demographic resilience. The NDS General and Specific Objectives (GO and SO, respectively) relevant to F2F are:

- GO 1. Increasing income from sustainable sources and reducing inequalities
- GO 2. Improvement of living conditions. Note: A premise is the strategically correct selection of priorities, prioritizing projects capable of increasing local, regional or national economic potential and interconnecting communities, production processes, services and existing infrastructures.
- GO 4. Raising the level of culture and personal development.
- SO 4.2. Valuing heritage, traditions and cultural diversity
- GO 5. Improving the physical and mental health of the population through the active contribution of a modern and efficient health system that meets the needs of each individual. SO 5.2. Reducing the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases through a comprehensive and cross-sectoral approach to the determinants of health.
- GO 6. A robust and inclusive social protection system. One of the strategic goals is to ensure an adequate national policy framework, based on strategies sensitive to the dimensions of poverty and gender and respect for human rights.
- GO 7. Ensure efficient, inclusive and transparent governance
- GO 10. Ensuring a healthy and safe environment
- SO 10.1. Improving the quality of water, air and soils
- SO 10.2. Sustainable growth of the area of forests and protected areas
- SO 10.3. Ensuring a responsible consumption of natural resources
- SO 10.4. The active transition to the green and circular economy

---

<sup>63</sup> Decree by the President of the Republic of Moldova No.741 dated December 19, 2022, on the promulgation of the Law for the approval of the National Development Strategy "Moldova European 2030", (2022). Moldova President [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=134581&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134581&lang=ro)



## 2. Three key strategic documents that guide the state's agriculture and food policy:

**2.1 The National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development for 2023-2030 (NSARD, 2023),<sup>64</sup>** which explicitly refers to Chapter 12 of the Association Agreement with the EU and the EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP).

NSARD 2023-2030 starts from the general goal of contributing to achieving the objectives of the NDS. The NSARD 2023-2030 vision is based on achieving synergy between the economic, environmental and social domains to solve the key impediments in the agricultural and rural sector with the following general objectives:

- 1) Strengthening the potential of the primary agricultural sector and promoting smart, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices;
- 2) Development of the food industry and diversification of markets;
- 3) Supporting sustainable rural socioeconomic development;
- 4) Ensuring the transposition of the EU acquis and its progressive implementation in agriculture, rural development and food safety.

The general objectives are aligned with the goals of the EU's CAP, which is to improve the sustainable development of agriculture, the food sector, and rural areas. The relevant Farm to Fork objectives of NSARD are:

- GO 1. Strengthening the potential of the primary agricultural sector and promoting innovative, sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices. For this GO the ministry aims at achieving the areas registered in organic farming by at least 10%, supporting agri-environment and climate practices for at least 5% of arable land, applying good environmental practices on an area of at least 150 thousand hectares of agriculture land, increasing local varieties share by at least 10%, achieving 3,000 ha in extension of the protective forest strips, and expanding the agricultural and rural advisory system to 100% of the country.
- GO 2. The development of the food industry and diversification of markets. The state aims to diversify more local agri-food production and increase the share of labelled products by 10%.
- GO 3. Supporting sustainable rural socioeconomic development. Here, the indicators are the number of projects and businesses in the rural areas. The goal is to have 250 projects improving physical and social infrastructure through the Local Action Groups (LAGs), namely by initiating and ensuring functioning of 60 LAGs, increasing rural tourism, agritourism and other projects (by 30 each year),

---

<sup>64</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.56 dated February 17, 2023 "On approval of the National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030", (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)





and the number of businesses started by young people, women, and migrants returning to the countryside (by 50 each year).

- GO 4. Ensuring the transposition of the EU acquis and its progressive implementation in agriculture, rural development and food safety. This GO aims to elaborate and implement the strategic development plan for MAFI to harmonise the sanitary and phytosanitary legislation fully and to transpose and implement the EU Farm to Fork Strategy.

Other relevant strategic documents mentioned by NSARD:

- The environmental strategy for the years 2014-2023, approved by Government Decision no. 301/2014;
- The national program in the fields of research and innovation for the years 2020-2023, approved by Government Decision no. 381/2019;
- The national regional development strategy of the Republic of Moldova for the years 2022-2028, approved by Government Decision no. 40/2022;
- The Plant Treaty (ITPGRFA), to which the Republic of Moldova acceded through Law no. 94/2015;
- Horticulture development program for the years 2021-2025, approved by Government Decision no. 840/2020;
- The development strategy of rural extension services for the years 2012-2022, approved by Government Decision no. 486/2012;
- The education development strategy for 2014-2020 "Education-2020", approved by Government Decision no. 944/2014.

Moreover, in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO REU), and with the help of National Agency for Rural Development (ACSA), MAFI has been developing a National Action Plan for Family Farming under the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028, which acknowledges the role of family farming in sustainable and inclusive development of food systems.

### **2.2 The Food Security Strategy of the Republic of Moldova for the years 2023-2030 (NSFS, 2022)<sup>65</sup>.** The most relevant F2F aspects of the NFSS are:

- GO1. The creation of the farmer's register, the establishment of a mechanism for data collection for food security and the creation of an inter-ministerial committee (or working group) for food security,
- GO3. The development of market infrastructure (national and regional agri-food markets, fairs) with a high rate of active involvement of micro and small enterprises; ensuring fair operating conditions of the agri-food logistic chain,

---

<sup>65</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.775 dated November 9, 2022 "On approval of the National Strategy for Food Security in the Republic of Moldova for 2023-2030", (2022). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=135003&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=135003&lang=ro)





including by preventing and combating unfair commercial practices; ensuring a regulatory and support framework to encourage the active participation of small-scale farmers and processors in the agri-food supply chain,

- GO4. Optimising the use of available natural resources by applying good agricultural practices,
- GO5. Ensuring a healthy diet and sufficient food consumption; monitoring, evaluating and measuring the food security index of vulnerable groups to prevent food insecurity; developing the National Program in food and nutrition; promoting the prevention of food loss and waste.

**2.3 The “National program for the development of the agri-food sector and rural areas for the period 2023-2026”<sup>66</sup>.** Its primary purpose is to create an efficient institutional and regulatory system based on the CAP's architecture and operational requirements and to ensure a synergistic framework of European Green Deal actions focused on the objectives of the **Farm to Fork Strategy** and the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**. The document explicitly mentions the need to strengthen the institutional framework for the synergy between F2F and biodiversity.

The other aspects covered by the general objectives listed in NSARD include climate adaptation, "supporting environmentally friendly production technologies, ecological products, including biodiversity", highlighting the slow pace of establishing and rehabilitating anti-erosion strips and expanding the area of land to be included in the ecological production system, mitigating social disparities, by supporting and diversifying sources of income, prioritising help for environment and climate friendly agriculture practices, as well as strengthening the market position of producers through common organisational forms (e.g., cooperatives).

**3. The Environmental Strategy 2023-2030,<sup>67</sup>** produced by the Ministry for Environment is a comprehensive document which sets ambitious goals involving several sectors, including agriculture and health, while referring to strategic targets linked to specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>68</sup>.

- GO2 focuses on improving the quality of surface and underground water, protecting and sustainably managing water resources, and ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water for all. It explicitly involves the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture (MAFI). Some indicators

---

<sup>66</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (2023). *National program for the development of the agri-food sector and rural areas for the period 2023-2026 [in elaboration]*. Available at: [https://particip.gov.md/ru/download\\_attachment/19578](https://particip.gov.md/ru/download_attachment/19578) (Accessed: 16 April 2024)

<sup>67</sup> Ministry of Environment (2023). *The Environmental Strategy for 2023-2030 [in elaboration]*. Available at: <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/anuntprivind-organizarea-consultarii-publice-a-proiectului-hotararii-de-guvern-pentru-aprobarea-strategiei-de-mediu-pentru-anii-2023-2030/11309> (Accessed: 10 April 2024)

<sup>68</sup> UN (2024). *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> (Accessed: 3 April 2024)



include reused and recycled water volume, chemical indexes regarding eutrophication, nutrients, and ammonium.

- MAFI is also involved in the GO 4 (Improving soil quality, protecting and conserving soil and valuable mineral resources). Some of the indicators for GO4 are the surface of land restored through afforestation, the number of measures for organic agriculture promoted, and the arable land under sustainable agriculture practices.
- Another relevant GO is GO 5 (protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural ecosystems), where one indicator is the degree of integration of biodiversity values into sectoral policies in the **environment, agriculture, research and education, public health**, etc.
- GO 7 aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 70% by 2030, compared to 1990, according to the unconditional scenario (or by 88% according to the conditional one), ensuring the Republic of Moldova's contribution to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 at the European level and increasing the resilience of economic sectors to climate change. For agriculture, the aim is to reduce GHG by 48% (unconditionally) and by 50% (conditionally).
- GO 8 aims to promote the green economy, make resource use more efficient, and develop a circular economy. There are indicators for the rate of sustainable/green public procurement with the application of eco criteria (to reach 5% out of total public procurement), the number of green SMEs (including those that received grants), the percentage of recycled waste (50%), and indexes for food and organic waste.

According to SO 5, of the **Climate Decision No. 1470 of 12-30-2016, concerning the approval of the 'Low-Emissions Development Strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2030.'** the unconditional reduction by 2030 of GHGs from the agricultural sector is 37%, and the conditional reduction is up to 41% compared to 1990 (the respective objectives for 2025: 43% and 45%)<sup>69</sup>.

**4. National Health Strategy "Health 2030"**<sup>70</sup> is a strategic document for health and its relevant F2F dimensions. Its relevant objectives include:

- GO 1.1. Reducing the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases through disease prevention, health protection and health promotion by strengthening the regulatory framework and implementing effective programs to control behavioural risk factors (tobacco consumption, alcohol consumption,

---

<sup>69</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 1470 dated December 2016 regarding the approval of the Development Strategy with reduced emissions of the Republic of Moldova up to the year 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation. (2016). Moldova Government [online]. Accessible at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=140002&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=140002&lang=ro)

<sup>70</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 387 dated June 14, 2023 on the approval of the National Health Strategy "Health 2030". Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=138493&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=138493&lang=ro)



unhealthy diet, physical inactivity), guaranteeing the safety of public health by enhancing the control of environmental factors (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear) that can threaten public health;

- GO 1.2. Strengthening strategic partnerships and strengthening mechanisms of intersectoral collaboration and shared responsibility in public health at national and local levels to ensure the principles of WHO "One Health" and "Health in all Policies". This is achieved by developing **intersectoral collaboration structures and mechanisms for a holistic response** to public health issues at the national and local levels. It aims to empower the community and strengthen effective mechanisms for the involvement of community leaders and civil society organisations in the implementation of relevant public health programs adapted to the local context. It aims to develop collaborative public health networks involving local, regional and international experts to address major public health challenges, by expanding intersectoral health promotion programs in the school environment, at the workplace and in the community by implementing initiatives such as "School promoting health", Healthy Cities/Localities".
- GO 1.3. Strengthen the public health surveillance system and increase the potential to respond to public health emergencies by developing a national surveillance system, monitoring and evaluating non-communicable diseases and behavioural risk factors (such as nutrition and physical activity, tobacco and alcohol consumption).

### **5. Regarding social policies, three strategic documents are highly relevant for gender-balanced, socially inclusive, and age-sensitive food systems.**

**5.1 The Program to promote and ensure equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2023-2027**<sup>71</sup> includes several aspects affecting women. However, overall, the program remains quite generic with the focus on mainstreaming gender issues in all sectors, for instance through the development and implementation of multi-year initiatives to integrate the perspective of gender equality in sectoral policies and the management of public finances specific to sectoral policies (GO 1: Reduce structural gender inequalities through gender-sensitive policies and budgets). Other GOs are also relevant, even though they remain generic: GO 3: Reducing the gender pay gap for equal work or work of equal value, GO 5: Promotion of women, including women from underrepresented groups, in leadership and decision-making at central and local levels.

Agriculture and nutrition-specific aspects concerning women are reflected poorly in the document because of insufficient data collection and data analysis of the role of women in sustainable agriculture and food systems. Although there are studies and

---

<sup>71</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 203 dated April 12, 2023 on the approval of the Program promoting and ensuring equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2023-2027. Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=137409&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=137409&lang=ro)



evidence in other countries about the role of women in preservation of agrobiodiversity, community leadership for environmental causes (including agroecology), food processing at micro scale, and development of healthy food habits, such data is lacking in Moldova. However, the data is crucial to achieve the state policy and program objectives for gender balance in food systems.

**5.2 The Program on active and healthy ageing for 2023-2027<sup>72</sup>** refers to the importance of agriculture in the activities of elderly people in rural areas. Its objectives are: 1) expanding the access of elderly people to quality essential social services; (number of men and women receiving services annually) **including social food**, 2) strengthening the policy and institutional framework to increase opportunities for healthy and active aging by creating age-friendly environments and integrating aging into the domains of social life; 3) increasing the number of elderly people participating in programs, services and community activities for their empowerment.

**5.3 The National Dietary Nutrient and Food-Based Guidelines have been developed with the financial support of UNICEF in Moldova.** These guidelines cover preschool and school-aged children, Preschool and School Food Standards (nutrient and food-based, in line with WHO/FAO standards), including menus aimed at improving the wellbeing of preschool and school-aged children through healthy nutrition. Taking into consideration that optimal nutrition among children and adolescents requires coordination across multiple sectors, an inter-sectoral technical working group was established, responsible for coordination, consultation and validation of the developed National Dietary Guidelines and adjusted Preschool and School Food Standards with representatives from the key stakeholders: Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and Ministry of Finance, National Agency Of Public Health and National Agency for Food Safety.

Annexe 1 details the most relevant Moldovan strategic national documents and their links to key EGD policy areas.

## Conclusions

Overall, the objectives across sectors are coherent and support one another, which reflects a shared government vision for development, including in F2F. Nevertheless, more specific correlation and SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and

---

<sup>72</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 434 date June 28, 2023 on the approval of the Program on active and healthy aging for the years 2023-2027, (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=138059&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=138059&lang=ro)



timebound) objectives and indicators are missing. Some might appear in further documents that are currently under development. The starting and reference points of the desired environmental, human and economic outcomes for Moldova's agriculture and food systems are unclear. Currently, the objectives are very general, do not refer to any values, or characterise more operational outputs (what will be done) rather than the desired outcome and impact. This lack of specific coherence and coordination translates into weak coordination at the implementation level, including a lack of a coherent strategic plan with clear responsibilities and progress monitoring. Such a coherence could take the form of a common F2F framework, for example, concerning organic agriculture.

**Table 4. The environmental, social and economic benefits of organic agriculture**

Topic/Related SMART objectives	Environment	Agriculture and food	Health and social	Economy
<b>Organic agriculture (10%) and agroecology</b>	Reduction of the use of pesticides with the impact on biodiversity (with values)	Reduction of food insecurity through more diversified food (including meat and poultry)	Improvement of public health, namely through reduction of NCDs by a certain value (through better nutrition and less pollution)	Reduction of environmental and health costs due to a polluted environment by a certain value in EUR or \$.
	Reduction of the use of synthetic fertilisers with the contribution to water quality (with values) for a certain number of people	Increase in animal production (as these would be integrated into crop systems for e.g., fertilisation, loan and pest management)	Reduction of malnutrition among children and women	Regeneration of ecosystem services (e.g., soil regeneration, water purification, pest management, pollination, tourism).
	Preservation of habitats of Wild Crop Relatives and biodiversity in agriculture	Reduction of on-farm production costs	Contribution to One Health (including by reduction of antimicrobial resistance development) in certain values.	
	Reduction of the use of antimicrobials (specific value)	Reduction of economic vulnerability (higher farm resilience to shocks like Covid-19, war or extreme weather events)	More opportunities for women and older people in rural areas (e.g., involved in organic seed production)	
	Increase in forested areas by a specific value and respective Ecosystem Services			



### 3.1.2 Compliance of national legal framework to international obligations/conventions and EU approximation

#### Relevant EU policy documents and legislation (directives and regulations) relevant to food systems

The entire list of relevant EU policy documents and legislation can be found in **Annexe 2. EU approximation assessment template**. Some transposition of EU documents requires experience in legal techniques and understanding of the context. While the Government continues to transpose EU legislation, some caution must be applied to ensure attention is given to the small details that might affect its implementation. For example, recently, MAFI transposed “Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1189” as part of the package for a new regulation on organic production and labelling of organic products (EU) 2018/848. While the Commission document contained all the derogations at the beginning, which makes explicit who this legislation does not apply to (and respective legislative references), the Moldovan legislator did not follow this. As a result of this incoherence between the existing and new legal proposals, the Government did not approve the draft.

Another relevant EU regulation is EC 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs. Until recently, this legislation was transposed partially in Moldova, excluding the Art. 2.(c) that states, inter alia, that these requirements do not apply to “the direct supply, by the farmer, of small quantities of primary products to the final consumer or to local retail establishments directly supplying the final consumer.” Although the NAFS does not usually pursue small artisanal producers selling their pickles or jams on the market, they remained illegal until recently.

#### Current situation concerning the approximation of the EU acquis/national program/EU integration

The European Commission Analytical Report for Moldova<sup>73</sup> on 2 February 2023, provided the following feedback on the EU acquis relevant for F2F:

**1. Consumer and health protection (Chapter 28):** Moldova’s law on consumer protection is partly aligned with the EU acquis. It provides the general requirements for protecting consumers and the framework for unrestricted access to products and services. The law is not aligned with the EU acquis on **consumer protection cooperation**, which lists the competent authorities' minimum investigative and enforcement powers. It is also not aligned with the acquis on out-of-court dispute resolution. Legislation on falsified medicines is not aligned with the EU acquis.

---

<sup>73</sup> European Commission. (2023). *Commission Analytical report on Moldova's alignment with the EU acquis*. Available at: [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/commission-analytical-report-moldovas-alignment-eu-acquis\\_en](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/commission-analytical-report-moldovas-alignment-eu-acquis_en) (Accessed: 10 February 2024)





Alignment with the EU acquis is needed regarding cosmetics and **medicines for veterinary use**.

**2. Social policy, employment (Chapter 19), and labour law:** Moldova must approximate its legislation to eight EU directives. Overall, Moldova has initiated regulatory convergence around labour law. However, gaps exist regarding alignment with most EU legislation in this area. Under the Association Agreement/Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (AA/DCFTA), regarding **occupational health and safety**, Moldova has adopted legislative acts for which the degree of approximation to the EU acquis requires further clarification. The State Labour Inspectorate (the administrative authority under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection) oversees compliance with labour legislation and occupational health and safety law. Weaknesses in legislation and the labour inspection regime constrain the application of labour rights and the effectiveness of the inspection system.

Regarding the sector collective bargaining (social dialogue), Moldova lacks organised social partners, mainly employers' organisations. However, it does have a Social Dialogue Service office that provides support to social partners, although their capacities need to be significantly strengthened.

On social inclusion and social protection, pension rules boast low retirement ages and differences between women and men. Ageing risks the system's sustainability, and current policies are inadequate to face this challenge.

Moldova has implemented the basic elements of **gender equality protection** in terms of non-discrimination and equality between women and men in employment, but further alignment and detailed information and analyses of the EU acquis are needed. Despite legislation, there is a wide gender pay gap.

**3. Chapter 27 on environment and climate change.** The main elements of the EU acquis are already embedded in national legislation, although Moldova still needs to make further progress in implementing them in order to fully align with the standards of the EU's **horizontal legislation**. Laws on environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment are fully aligned with the EU acquis, except for the articles containing provisions that apply specifically to EU member states. Implementing its current environmental strategy is challenged by the lack of funding, low administrative capacity, especially for implementing and enforcing environmental legislation, and heavy reliance on international donors. Moldova lacks provisions on environmental liability, and although the legal framework for the eco-labelling system is in place, the system remains at a preliminary stage of implementation.

There is limited alignment with the EU law on **water management**. Moldova must progress on nitrates and invest in water supply and sanitation infrastructure. Regarding the climate, Moldova is not aligned with the EU's Effort-Sharing Regulation



or the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation. However, some provisions are expected to be incorporated into national law through the Energy Community. Moldova has not aligned with the directive establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading (EU Emission Trading System).

**4. Resources, agriculture, and cohesion (Cluster 5: chapters 11-13):** The creation of an EU-like paying agency and the development of elements of an integrated administration and control system will need to be addressed. Data quality requires improvement, and process efficiency needs to be increased. A Farm Accountancy Data Network system will need to be developed.

Regarding **quality policy**, Moldova has adopted legislation regulating protected geographical indication, protected designation of origin, and guaranteed traditional specialities (LP66/2008). Rules of procedure are established, and certification bodies must be accredited according to the standard ISO 17065.

Regarding **organic farming**, Moldova has established legislation that must be updated in line with the EU acquis. Moldova is at an **early stage of preparation** for agriculture and rural development. It must fully align with the EU acquis and establish the structures, systems, and administrative capacity to implement and enforce it effectively. On sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the AA/DCFTA provides 235 EU acts to be approximated by Moldova. Of these, Moldova has fully aligned with 153, partially aligned with seven, not aligned with 68, and another seven are no longer in force.

National legislation and implementing rules for **export to the EU** are generally in line with EU requirements, although due to the ineffectiveness of the surveillance system and lack of diagnostic resources, the competent authorities have not proven to be ready to deliver the necessary level of assurances for all animal products. Moldova has established a legislative framework for placing food, feed, and animal by-products on the market. While the official checks follow a risk-based approach, the frequency of checks does not align with the identified risk level.

**Regarding genetically modified organisms (GMOs)**, the Parliament adopted a new law on regulating and controlling GMOS on 15 December 2023, to align with the Directive on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOS. Moldova has achieved **some level of preparation** regarding food safety, veterinary, and phytosanitary policy. Substantial work remains to be done regarding the approximation of legislation and implementing rules. It is necessary to strengthen administrative capacity and the agencies responsible for implementation and monitoring action in this policy area.

Regarding **fisheries**, Moldova has adopted the Draft Law on the common fisheries and aquaculture policy, but it requires updating. Moldova needs measures to ensure the





safe introduction of alien and locally absent species into aquaculture. Concerning **resource management**, industrial fishing is not authorised. However, Moldova does not systematically collect biological and socioeconomic data on fisheries and aquaculture. **Inspection and control** activities are limited: there is basic equipment and a limited budget to inspect and monitor recreational fisheries. Imports of fishery products are insufficiently controlled and are allowed solely based on sanitary-veterinary certificates issued by the exporting country's competent authorities and the producer's quality certificate. A control system is needed to prevent the importation of fishery products from illegal, unauthorised, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Moldova has no specific **structural actions** for fisheries. Concerning **market policy**, there is no legal framework on producer organisations or market requirements specific to fishery and aquaculture products (consumer information, marketing standards, such as MSC or others, or market intelligence). Moldova is at an **early stage of preparing its fisheries policy** and needs to harmonise the national legal framework further with the EU acquis. Moldova is encouraged to adopt a multiannual national strategy dedicated to aquaculture, and to consider the "Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030" in that process. The planned quality standards for fish and fish products need to be aligned with the marketing standards under the EU common market organisation. Controls to prevent the importation of products from IUU fishing must be established in line with the EU requirements. Moldova must improve the administrative structures, including establishing a managing authority and building institutional capacity.

It is worth noting that the Moldovan Government and main ministries responsible for delivering F2F (agriculture and food, environment and health) are currently transposing dozens of EU policy and regulation documents. Despite substantial effort, the state capacity is limited, and such a focus on the EU accession is to some extent detrimental to the usual work of central public authorities. In practice, this means there is a lack of time to pay attention to the citizens' needs and problems that do not refer to the EU accession. In this regard, there is also insufficient human capacity at the government level to communicate with simple citizens on the specific benefits that the EU accession might have for citizens (within F2F, for instance, how this strategy will help people in the villages have a better environment and improve their economic situation).

### 3.2 Instruments for policy implementation

This section describes the implementation of policies in Moldova. It analyses whether they are sufficient to achieve the ambitions of the national policy and international agreements (objectives and targets, as well as legal responsibilities presented above). This analysis is focused on assessing the appropriateness of the policy mix (appropriateness of existing and planned regulatory and economic instruments as well as funding mechanisms) for reaching the ambition of the EU Farm to Fork strategy.



The Farm to Fork strategy sets out a transition to “a sustainable EU food system to ensure food security and access to healthy food while securing the environment”, and the Moldovan Government committed to the implementation of the provisions of this strategy. Benefitting from the EU support, Moldova adopted more than 25,000 EU technical standards in its national legislation, and the process continues. The acceptance of higher standards required in the markets of EU countries has already indirectly given positive results/stimulated exports to other countries outside the EU and the CIS. Agri-food exports to countries outside the EU and the CIS increased significantly (about 19%) in 2014-2020<sup>74</sup>. Nevertheless, the impact of current agriculture and food systems on the environment and public health remains high, indicating that more work needs to be done regarding the use and monitoring of agrochemicals and veterinary products and ways to prevent the development of NCDs related to their use.

Even though significant progress has been made in adopting new laws/regulations during the last few years, much remains to be done. The lack of specialists negatively influenced the harmonisation of national legislation with the European Acquis. This was one of the causes of the failure to entirely fulfil the commitments made under the EU Association Agreement. As a result, many of the activities have not yet been implemented.

The single market, the most important achievement of the European Union, can be available for Moldovan domestic producers if some essential conditions are met, including harmonisation of legislation, refurbishment of growth and processing improvements to obtain the final product according to European market requirements. The requirements include a competitive price, healthy, sustainable and safe products, maintaining quality parameters for the whole lot of contracted goods, the quality certificate of the production process and the actual product, and the delivery schedule.<sup>75</sup>

The adopted economic instruments for implementing the EU Farm to Fork strategy are quite fragmented. They are often expressed in different forms, including subsidies, social support programs, reduced taxes or donor via programs. Generally, they give good results, encouraging farmers and actors in the agrifood system to invest in new green measures and adopt sustainable practices. There is a need for actors in the Moldovan food system to collaborate to address the complex nature of agri-food systems, by addressing in a coordinated manner, not only food production, farming

---

<sup>74</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.56 dated February 17, 2023 “On approval of the National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030”, (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)

<sup>75</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.56 dated February 17, 2023 “On approval of the National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030”, (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)



and trade, but also the environment, health, resource and land management, social dimensions, etc.

### 3.2.1 Regulatory and economic instruments

This section describes the regulatory and economic instruments used to implement the EU Farm to Fork policy in Moldova, achieve coherence with other sectoral policies, align the sector policy with the EU, and achieve other decarbonisation goals.

**The key regulatory documents** that act as a pillar of the Farm to Fork strategy are grouped into nine categories, and we present them along with national laws and the EU directives in Annexe 2. This annexe contains a general description of each group, an outline of their key objectives and the status of their transposition to the Moldovan legislation. Below are a few examples of the most pertinent regulatory and economic instruments that demonstrate their importance in delivering Farm to Fork goals. Many activities have not yet been implemented because of the failure to fulfil the commitments under the EU Association Agreement entirely. For example, the export permit for poultry meat and category B eggs has remained in discussion for over five years, resulting in a considerable loss of income for the livestock sector.<sup>76</sup>

Another example is that the Law on Animal Husbandry has finally been adopted after countless postponements and delays. The adoption of this document was planned in 2016. The document transposed over 20 legislative acts and aims to increase the quality and competitiveness of products of animal origin and their promotion on the internal and external markets.

The same situation applies to the new Law on Organic Agriculture and labelling of organic products, which, after many discussions and negotiations, has finally been adopted, transposing the EU legislation. Due to the current state support for the conversion to organic agriculture, the area under organic cultivation has increased, but is still a very modest 1.5% of total arable area. To ensure that the organic development reaches 25% of agricultural land under organic farming by 2030, more complex and attractive support should be developed, such as access to markets, alternative inputs, and more resilient and farmer-empowering knowledge systems.

**The main economic instrument** for implementing policy in the agricultural sector is the **National Fund for Development of Agriculture and Rural Development (NFDARD)**. All subsidies for agricultural producers and processors have been merged in this fund and channelled to the producers supporting the sector policy implementation through the Agency for Intervention and Payments in Agriculture

---

<sup>76</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.56 dated February 17, 2023 "On approval of the National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030", (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)



(AIPA). According to a World Bank report, public funding for agriculture is approximately 2% of GDP, including 0.6% of tax expenditures.<sup>77</sup>

In Moldova, public spending on agriculture is organised through direct budget spending and tax expenditures (foregone tax revenues). Direct budget spending is through subsidies (current and capital), services (research, education, food safety, and extension services), and donor-supported programs. Tax expenditures are through reduced corporate income tax, value-added tax, social security contributions, and health contribution rates. Tax concessions, a type of tax expenditure, take the form of reduced tax rates, exemptions, and tax deductions. Tax expenditures can be made more efficient, cost-effective, and equitable. For direct budget spending, allocative efficiency has improved, but concerns about efficiency and equity remain. Allocative efficiency in direct budget spending on agriculture has improved.<sup>78</sup>

The total amount spent to support agricultural producers and processors differs each year for various reasons. State support has gradually increased in the last few years, reaching 1.9 billion Moldovan lei (MDL) or approximately 80 million euros in 2023.<sup>79</sup> The regulation on providing subsidies prioritises the importance of the different measures and needed interventions every year. For example, to diminish the negative impact of the diesel price increase, the Government decided to fully compensate the excise tax on diesel for small and medium-sized agricultural producers. To finance this policy, the authorities granted MDL 300 million. Although the immediate problem has been addressed, this support contradicts the climate green agenda goals, which aim to decouple energy and agriculture from the fossil-fuel industry. Most instruments providing investment support are distributed after the investment takes place. In recent years, some practices have been implemented that promote advanced payments to young farmers and start-ups. Thus, state support is mainly accessible to farms that have sufficient financial means or access to credit markets.

According to the AIPA, the following subsidies have been paid in 2023:

- 1135.3 billion lei to the farmers implemented investment projects in 2022,
- 140.8 million lei advance payments for livelihood improvements in rural areas,
- 14.6 million lei advance payments for start-up projects,
- 67.6 million lei for LEADER Projects,
- 139.5 million lei subsidies for purchased diesel,

---

<sup>77</sup> World Bank. (2013). Moldova Public Expenditure Review : Capital Expenditures - Making Public Investment Work for Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth in Moldova. © Washington, DC. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/16766> License: [CC BY 3.0 IGO](#)

<sup>78</sup> World Bank. (2013). Moldova Public Expenditure Review : Capital Expenditures - Making Public Investment Work for Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth in Moldova. © Washington, DC. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/16766> License: [CC BY 3.0 IGO](#)

<sup>79</sup> Data provided during QAP by the Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA)



- 52.9 million lei for the additional subsidies<sup>80</sup> (including organic agriculture, implementing environment-friendly technologies, etc.) that contributes directly to reducing the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50% and the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50% by 2030. This will also reduce nutrient losses by at least 50% while ensuring soil fertility does not deteriorate. This will reduce the use of fertilisers by at least 20% by 2030,
- 129.5 million lei direct payments for the livestock sector (86.4 million lei direct payments per kg/milk (caw) and 43.1 million lei direct payments per animal). The livestock sector is underdeveloped in Moldova, and because of this, there are insufficient organic fertilisers for sustainable production and no possibility to diversify or, for example, support crop rotation with fodder crops,
- 200 million lei financial support for the farmers affected by crises in 2022,
- 19.7 million lei state contribution to the National Fund of the vine & wine sector.

As the statistics above show, funding for implementing Moldovan agricultural policy is mainly based on investment support. This support is crucial for the sustainability and competitiveness of the Moldovan agricultural food sector and, therefore, for implementing the EU Farm to Fork goals.

According to the 2018 mid-term evaluation report from the previous Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020, the lowest degree of achievement is observed in actions planned to achieve objective 2.2—supporting environmentally friendly production technologies and practices, including biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation. This trend continued in 2023.

The new National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development includes more specific sustainability goals for agriculture, such as strengthening resilience to climate change and promoting efficient and sustainable agricultural practices. This means that more subsidies should be allocated to achieve key sustainability goals. No strategic document or road map details how Moldova should engage in the European Green Deal, which means that this report comes at a timely moment. Moreover, there is no regular evaluation of ecosystem services for farms linked to the minimum environmental requirements for subsidy beneficiaries.

Fiscal policy measures aimed primarily at the agricultural sector are another economic instrument, according to Art. 96 of the Fiscal Code No. 1163/1997.<sup>81</sup> This includes an 8% reduced VAT rate, applied to the livestock sector, live mass, and horticultural products, which are produced and/or imported on the territory of the Republic of Moldova (e.g., dill, parsley, fresh or chilled sugar beet, etc.).

---

<sup>80</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (2024) *Activity report for 2023*, available as PDF copy upon request.

<sup>81</sup> Art. 96 of the Fiscal Code of the Republic of Moldova no. 1163/1997



To support agricultural development, a reduced income tax rate for peasant households has also been established—7% (general rate of 12%) (Art. 15 letter C of the Fiscal Code).

**The National Agency for Food Safety (ANSA)** is the authority that ensures the organisation and coordination of actions in the main areas of competence, such as food safety and quality, sanitary, veterinary, phytosanitary and food consumer protection at all stages of the food chain.

Following the central public administration reform implemented in 2017-2018<sup>82</sup>, several institutions (sanitary-veterinary, livestock, phytosanitary, plant protection, quality, and safety of food products) invested with functions and tasks in several fields were merged into a single institution, the National Agency for Food Safety (ANSA). Additionally, ANSA took over the responsibilities related to consumer protection for the food sector and the official control of alcoholic products. Thus, the main areas of responsibility of ANSA are: 1) sanitary-veterinary and animal welfare; 2) phytosanitary and plant protection; 3) food safety and quality; 4) production and circulation of wine and alcoholic products; 5) consumer protection in the food field.

**The Agency for Agricultural Development and Modernisation (ADMA)**<sup>83</sup> is a self-financing public institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry. It facilitates farmers' access to modern agricultural machinery and equipment to ensure the growth of competitive agri-food production.

The other economic instruments that have a direct and indirect attribution to the successful implementation of the EU Farm to Fork strategy in Moldova are the funds from different sectors, rather than agriculture, such as the National Regional Development Fund, the National Environment Fund, the Energy Efficiency Fund and Donors' support programs/projects.

**The National Regional Development Fund's (NFRDL)**<sup>84</sup> resources are granted primarily to the first-level public administration authorities **for regional and local development projects** to implement the National Regional Development Strategy, which includes all investment projects (approved for financing from NFRDL sources). 541 projects were finalised in 2023 with a total budget of 759 million lei. For example, the project funded climate-smart and energy-efficient food and processing technologies that consume less energy and decrease production costs.

---

<sup>82</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 600 dated June 27, 2018 "on the organisation and operation of the National Food Safety Agency" (2018). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=119159&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=119159&lang=ro)

<sup>83</sup> <https://adma.gov.md/en/> (Accessed: 22 April 2025)

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.adrnord.md/> (Accessed: 22 April 2025)





**The National Environment Fund**<sup>85</sup> exclusively finances programs and projects to protect the environment, combat climate change, and sustainably manage natural resources.

**The Energy Efficiency Fund**<sup>86</sup> is part of the overall effort by the Moldovan government to increase the country's energy efficiency, lessen its dependence on energy imports, and reduce CO2 emissions to ensure Moldova's compliance with its international obligations and commitments in the energy efficiency area. The Fund incorporates best global practices in corporate governance and energy efficiency and provides a sustainable financial instrument for Moldovan citizens to meet their needs in support of energy consumption reductions through energy efficiency measures.

**Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA).**<sup>87</sup> The Ministry of Economy develops and promotes effective public policies regulating the economy, businesses and small and medium enterprises, and the most relevant policies ensuring sustainable socio-economic rural development are implemented through the Public Institution ODA. Financial guarantees are provided to entrepreneurs through the Credit Guarantee Fund, which is an instrument for supporting small businesses (including agri-food businesses). The mission of the Guarantee Fund is to implement the state policy on supporting the development of the small and medium enterprises sector in the Republic of Moldova, to facilitate access to finance for small and medium enterprises that do not have enough collateral, by issuing financial guarantees in favour of entities in the financial sector, to guarantee loans/borrowings. Key sustainability aspects are conditions for funding, including the need to reduce or adapt to climate change. Recently, the ODA implemented a support program entitled "greening SMEs", providing investment grants up to 25 thousand Euros per beneficiary, resources being allocated both from the state budget and the EU.

**The National Agency for Public Health** oversees several areas, including public health, occupational safety, quality of medicines, para-pharmaceutical products and their circulation. At the same time, the institution ensures the respect of consumer rights in health. Previously, these duties were exercised by the National Food Safety Agency and the Agency for Consumer Protection. Although the Ministry of Health has approved the nutritional guide and food standards for school institutions in the Republic of Moldova a few years ago, which could ensure the diversity of foods in the menu, this guide has been voluntary (local public authorities bear the costs of nutrition at schools and very often have limited resources). It is also worth mentioning the public procurement procedures that so far have been prioritising the cheapest options

---

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.eu4environment.org/moldovas-national-environmental-fund/> (Accessed: 22 April 2025)

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.energie.gov.md/en/content/energy-efficiency> (Accessed: 22 April 2025)

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.oda.md/en/> (Accessed: 22 April 2025)



for food, raising many questions regarding the origin and quality of this food (whether it is fresh, organic or local).

### 3.2.2 Funding and financing

This section describes the most important sectoral funding and financing measures and mechanisms to support the EU Farm to Fork goals across Moldova's agri-food system.

The primary source of financing for Moldovan agriculture is the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas (NFDARA). The Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA) manages NFDARA resources and resources from development partners allocated for intervention measures in agriculture. Projects financed from external sources are funded through the Project Implementation Units. Other funds include the National Regional Development Fund, the National Environment Fund and the Energy Efficiency Fund.

The funding and financing for implementing NARDS 2014-2020<sup>88</sup> were provided both from the State Budget and external sources. The State Budget allocated financial resources through the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Environment (FNDAMR). The allocations from FNDAMR were structured as follows:

- 1) Post-investment subsidies (granted based on investments already made);
- 2) Advance payments;
- 3) Subsidies in advance for the development of the rural environment;
- 4) Payment per head of animal.

The scheme exclusively involved post-investment subsidies in the first period (2014-2018). In 2018, a subsidy scheme was introduced with advanced subsidies for start-up projects in agriculture. In 2019, an advance subsidy for rural development was introduced. In 2020, the subsidy scheme included a per capita payment measure, which aims to support investments made in the livestock sector.<sup>89</sup>

The structure of the post-investment subsidy scheme was based on three priorities, each taking over one of the three General Objectives of NARDS 2014-2020. Thus, in 2014-2020, of the total of 4.22 billion MDL approved for financing post-investment investments, approximately 89.4% or 3.77 billion MDL were allocated to cover the applications under

---

<sup>88</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.56 dated February 17, 2023 "On approval of the National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030", (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)

<sup>89</sup> National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030 (2023). Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)





priority 1. Priority 1 refers to investment in modernisation/competitiveness, including food safety, food security, sustainability, etc.

Furthermore, besides the financial resources allocated from FNDARM sources, the agricultural sector and actions specific to General Objective 1 have also received financial support through various externally financed investment projects and programs. For example, “Livada Moldovei”, the Horticultural Sector Restructuring Program, received approximately EUR 38.3 million for the modernisation of the horticultural sector: new varieties, new orchards, new cold storage facilities, new machinery, sustainability certification and competitiveness of the industry, all of which align with the aims of the F2F strategy.

Another investment program is the Competitive Agriculture Project (MAC-P), financed by the World Bank with sources totalling \$44 million (\$34 million—MAC-P I and \$10 million—MAC-P II). This program aims to increase the competitiveness of the agri-food sector by providing support for the modernization of food safety management and farmers' access to markets, including external ones.

In the case of Priority 2 of post-investment subsidies, approximately 393 million MLD, or 9.3% of the total allocations for post-investment subsidies between 2014 and 2020, were allocated from FNDAMR sources. Most resources were allocated to stimulate investment, purchase no-till and mini-till agricultural equipment (177.6 million MDL), and promote and develop organic farming (approximately 11 million MDL).

In the case of Priority 3, under the post-investment subsidy scheme, a total of approx. 51.69 million MDL or approx. 1.2% of the total allowances for post-investment subsidies. Most of the subsidies for Priority 3 were allocated to finance the rural infrastructure improvement and development measure (MDL 49.09 million or about 94.9% of the total post-investment subsidies awarded under this priority).

The advance subsidy scheme for start-up projects in agriculture was introduced in the regulatory framework in 2018, and the first funding was allocated in 2018. In 2018-2020, 41.2 million MDL were allocated, of which 24.4 million were allocated in 2018-2019 and 16.8 million MDL were allocated in 2020.

Finally, the advance subsidy scheme for developing rural areas was introduced in 2019. It funds projects totalling approximately 66 million MDL, of which 25.5 million MDL will be effectively disbursed by the end of the year.

Farmers in the Republic of Moldova benefit from financial guarantees for accessing loans to commercial banks through the Credit Guarantee Fund (CGF), which the ODA manages. CGF has signed partnership agreements with all 11 commercial banks in the country, and guaranteed products covering up to 80% of the amount of credit requested by farmers, the value of guarantees ranging from 500 thousand MDL for start-up companies to 7



million MDL for companies exporting. At the same time, in the context of the health and energy crisis, all guarantees issued in 2022 are exempt from the payment of the guaranteed fee for the first year of action of the guarantee, and the maximum guaranteed quota for all active companies has been increased to 80% of the contracted credit.

Since the launch of CGF, agricultural companies have been granted 469 financial guarantees amounting to MDL 217.03 million (11 m EURO), facilitating access to loans amounting to MDL 555.89 million (28 m EURO).

**Availability of financial sources:** The main financiers of the agro-industrial sector are agricultural producers as investors, the state through AIPA, ODA, IFAD Implementing Units, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, ADMA (Agency for Agricultural Development and Modernization, and development partners), the European Union, United Nations Program (UNDP), USA through USAID, Governments of Japan, Sweden, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Denmark, Netherlands, FAO, and other foreign investors. From 2014 to 2019, the Republic of Moldova received agricultural investment from external donors of at least 11.5 billion MDL. Together with affiliated grants of about MDL 4.9 billion, the total invested amounted to about 16.4 billion MDL. These figures do not include investments made by agricultural producers from their resources, and support provided by the State to cover natural disasters from the reserve fund. If we include Moldova's contribution to agricultural producers of about 40%, the total investment in the agricultural sector exceeds 23.0 billion MDL.

**Analysing the efficiency of using financial sources:** it should be noted that the total value of agricultural production in 2014-2019 was about 186.2 billion MDL. Comparing this total value to the total amount of investments in the agricultural sector, we obtain the figure of about 8.0 MDL of agricultural production for each MDL invested in the sector. This is a pretty good indicator, but it can't be entirely attributed to the effect of direct investment in the sector. The favourable natural and climatic conditions for agriculture have multiplied the value of investments. At the same time, the results of the crops obtained compared to the neighbours indicate the undervalued potential of the agri-food sector in the Republic of Moldova.

**In conclusion,** the agri-food sector's potential has not been fully realised, and more finance and funding are needed to develop high-value-added sectors such as processing, animal husbandry, and the implementation of sustainable practices, considering the green transition.

### 3.3 Institutional/governance capacity

This section describes and analyses the Moldovan governance structures, roles and performance in the agri-food system, assessing whether the institutions can execute the proper policy planning and implementation level to reach the EGD (EU Farm to Fork)



targets. Due to the EU support and government commitment, good progress is being made, and the institutional and governance capacity of the key stakeholders is improving. Good progress is made in interinstitutional and intersectoral cooperation, which periodically brings together relevant ministries and governmental entities to enhance policy coherence at a level needed for a successful green transition. This, however, needs to become standard practice. It is essential to pay more attention and effort to ensure that long-term EU Farm to Fork considerations are integrated into other sector policies, plans, program and projects. Furthermore, Moldova needs mechanisms to ensure that decision-making, policy development and planning follow long-term objectives, i.e. span beyond the current electoral cycle.

### 3.3.1 Existing institutional set-up

Below is a short overview of the Moldovan leading ministries and competent authorities responsible for the governance of the Farm to Fork area: the current institutional setup, roles, and responsibilities of institutions in policy development, implementation and enforcement. The overview notes whether there is continuity in the institutional basis for the sector, inter-institutional cooperation within the thematic area/sector, and relations with other sectors.

**The Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization (MDED)** coordinates the transposition and implementation of the EU acquis set out in the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement (DCFTA),<sup>90</sup> which is a part of the EU-MD Association Agreement. MDED is the central body authorised to promote state policy in the field of economy and coordinate the economic development of the Republic of Moldova. It implements the Government's strategy and program for the economy and public finance.

The Ministry contributes to integrating green economy measures and principles into policy documents and production processes in the branches of the national economy, which helps improve economic performance, environmental quality and living standards of the Moldovan population. This mode of economic development will increase the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation, attract green investment and promote the country's regional image.

Promoting the green economy is a cross-cutting area, and effective collaboration between the institutions involved at national and local levels contributes to achieving the given objectives by aligning them with the priorities of the European Green Deal, the new European Industrial Strategy, the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Farm to Fork (consumer) Strategy and the new EU Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2030.

---

<sup>90</sup> Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation. Acordul de Liber Schimb cu Uniunea Europeana, AA/DCFTA in Moldova. Available at: <https://dcfta.md/sistemul-de-coordonare> (Accessed: 25 January 2024)



**The Centre for Legal Approximation**<sup>91</sup> within the State Chancellery oversees coordinating and monitoring the process of legal approximation to EU legislation, ensuring the compatibility of national legislation with EU legislation, and conducting EU-compatibility expertise of national legal acts.

**The Governmental Commission for European Integration**, the main decision-making and monitoring platform, is responsible for coordinating the implementation of commitments deriving from the Moldova-EU documents and agreements. It is composed of all ministries and is headed by the Prime Minister of Moldova;

**The Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs and European Integration** ensures parliamentary monitoring over the Government's foreign and European integration policy.

**The Parliamentary Commission Environment, Climate and Green Transition Commission** contributes to policy development and ensures monitoring of the implementation of state environment policy/sustainable use of natural resources, promotion of environment-friendly technologies, climate adaptation, and transition to a green economy.

**The Parliamentary Commission Agriculture and Food Industry Commission** contributes to sector policy development and ensures monitoring of the implementation of state agri-food policy.

**The Parliamentary Commission Social Protection, Health and Family Commission** contributes to health and social protection policy development and ensures monitoring of the implementation of state policy.

**The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI)** and other ministries and competent authorities presented above and below are responsible for implementing the Farm to Fork strategy in Moldova. MAFI is responsible for elaborating and monitoring public policies and regulations in the agri-food sector, proposing state interventions and effective solutions in competence areas, and ensuring the best ratio between the expected results and costs. Its primary responsibilities are:

- to develop, promote and ensure the implementation of national and sectoral strategies, policies, programs, action plans, standards and requirements related to food market, organic production (cultivated plants and plant products), livestock (animal production) and food safety and to provide their impact analysis, strategic planning, monitoring and assessment and were necessary, to adjust them to the European integration priorities and requirements;

---

<sup>91</sup> State Chancellery (2024). *Internal structure*. Available at: <https://cancelaria.gov.md/ro/advanced-page-type/structura-interna> (Accessed: 28 January 2024)



- to ensure the food safety of the country in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility;
- to coordinate/manage the international and national programs for technical and financial assistance to support the reform of the food market and food safety;
- to represent the country with other international organisations/instruments in the respective field.

The Ministry's mission, among other things, is to analyse the situation and problems in the field of food safety, veterinary, and phytosanitary policy, develop effective public policies in the above-mentioned field, monitor the quality of policies and regulations, and propose justified governmental interventions to provide effective solutions in the relevant fields of competence, ensuring the best ratio between the expected results and costs.

The responsibility for implementing, coordinating, and monitoring public policies in the fields of food safety, veterinary, and phytosanitary policy is divided among different institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) or directly to the Government.

**The National Food Safety Agency (ANSA)** is the primary institution responsible for implementing, monitoring, and coordinating food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policies.<sup>92</sup>

**The Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project (MAC-P)**, which is financed by the World Bank and implemented by the Consolidated Agricultural Projects Management Unit (CAPMU), aims to enhance the competitiveness of the country's agro-food sector. It does this by supporting modernising the food safety management system; facilitating market access for farmers; and mainstreaming agro-environmental and sustainable land management practices. Overall, the institution has high technical expertise in different sub-areas of agriculture. Nevertheless, the capacity of fisheries is minimal. There are almost no veterinarians specialised in fisheries. Furthermore, the testing of imported frozen fish is irregular.

**The Agency for Intervention and Payments for Agriculture (AIPA)** implements the state policy of subsidies and intervention in the Agri-food sector and rural areas. It is responsible for efficiently managing the National Agricultural and Rural Development Fund (NARDF), including managing financial sources granted by development partners. AIPA is currently a legal entity under public law. It has ten regional subdivisions with sections or services, responsible for receiving, first-level verification, data capturing and

---

<sup>92</sup> Chapter 12. Food Safety/Information of the Government of Moldova to Questionnaire of the EC.



forwarding beneficiaries' applications to the central office. To ensure the efficiency of the agency last year, the number of staff was doubled.<sup>93</sup>

**The agricultural research institutions are currently reorganising.** They include the IP Institute of Pedology, Agro-chemistry and Soil Protection Nicolae Dimo", IP Institute Scientific-Practical Horticulture and Food Technologies, I.P. Scientific-Practical Institute of Biotechnology in Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine, I.P. Field Crops Institute "Selectia" and the Phytothecnics Institute "Porumbeni", which has been reorganized/merged into a new public institution – the National Center for Research and Seeds Production.<sup>94</sup>

**Agricultural producers associations** include the National Federation of Farmers of Moldova (FNFM), Federation of Farmers of Moldova (FARM), Association of Fruit Producers and Exporters Moldova Fruct, Board of Meat Processing Enterprises, Employers Association, National Association of Milk and Milk Producers, "Dairy Products" Republican Association of Agricultural Producers "UniAgroProtect", Association of Nut Producers, Association "Pomuşoarele Moldovei", Association of Aromatic and Medicinal Plant Growers AROMEDA, etc.)

**The Ministry of Environment** is responsible for elaborating and implementing environmental protection policies, sustainable management of natural resources, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

**The Environmental Agency is subordinated to the Ministry of Environment** and has a mission to ensure the implementation of environmental protection, climate change and sustainable management of natural resources policies. Permanent monitoring of the quality of environmental factors, water, soil, air, biodiversity conservation and others.

**Moldsilva Agency** is a public authority subordinated to the Ministry of Ecology. It is responsible for the sustainable development of silviculture, ensuring forest and fauna protection and biodiversity conservation.

**The Ministry of Health is the central specialised body** of public administration that ensures the implementation of governmental policies in health. The Ministry's mission is to elaborate, promote, and implement state policies in the health field to ensure a quality and equitable health system accessible to all citizens of the Republic of Moldova. The Ministry's vision is a healthy population with a constant improvement in the quality of life.

---

<sup>93</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (2024) *Activity report for 2023*, available as PDF copy upon request.

<sup>94</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (2024) *Activity report for 2023*, available as PDF copy upon request.



**The National Agency for Public Health** oversees several areas, including public health, occupational safety, the quality of medicines and pharmaceutical products, and their circulation. At the same time, the institution will ensure the respect of consumer rights in health. In the past, these duties were exercised by the National Food Safety Agency and the Agency for Consumer Protection.

**The Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development** is the central public authority responsible for developing effective public policies, monitoring the quality of policies and regulations in the following areas relevant for the farm to fork domain: energy security and energy efficiency; regional development, water and sanitation strengthening the capacity of water supply and sewage service providers, increasing investments in water supply and sanitation infrastructure, sewerage and wastewater treatment in small towns.

**The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** collects and produces Farm to Fork-related statistical information in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Moldova on Official Statistics and based on the Statistical Works Program, approved annually by the Government.

### 3.3.2 Capacity assessment of the existing institutional set-up

This section assesses Moldova's existing institutional setup to perform functions relevant to the EU Farm to Fork goals. Specifically, this includes policy planning and coordination, enforcement and monitoring, data collection and reporting, institutional absorption capacities for technical and financial assistance, and the ability to coordinate aid effectively.

With the assistance of the EU, most of the assessed stakeholders managed to develop the necessary regulatory capacity to implement required reforms in the agri-food system. However, continuous insufficiency of financial and human resources is a serious barrier to implementing EGD, Farm to Fork monitoring, and reporting practices as necessary. Many of these institutions also lack experience in properly coordinating cross-sectoral related activities, capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, and communication activities.

The general assessment of the institutional readiness for each of the aspects is provided in the list below:

**Long-term planning.** All the leading ministries and competent authorities responsible for the governance of the Farm to Fork area in Moldova are listed above and actively involved in long-term planning, but as this is a relatively new topic, all of them need additional support to ensure continuity and efficiency in implementing EGD and Farm to Fork policies.





**The extent of the mandates and authority.** According to the current attributed functions, all relevant, analysed key authorities have the necessary legal and administrative powers to enforce and implement EU Farm to Fork policies. In time, these may need adjustment to ensure the efficient implementation of EGD and Farm to Fork policies.

**Resource allocation.** The volume of allocated resources (financial and human) is increasing yearly. However, this will be insufficient to ensure that all institutions have the capacity to effectively and efficiently implement Farm to Fork priorities.

**Interagency coordination.** As highlighted above, promoting the green economy is a cross-cutting area, and effective collaboration between the institutions involved, at national and local levels, is crucial to achieving the given objectives. Effective implementation requires multiple government agencies to work together. The Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation seems to have the role and mechanisms for coordination and collaboration.

**Compliance and enforcement.** Each ministry and competent authority for enforcing compliance with Farm to Fork policies and regulations complements each other according to the attributed competences. The MAFI and ANSA have the most significant part to play and seem to have the largest capacity to enforce compliance with Green Deal policies and regulations. However, these are insufficient for the moment. Furthermore, the enforcement capabilities of other ministries and committees are also substantial and further capacity will be required to ensure compliance and enforcement.

**Data collection, monitoring and reporting** – The National Bureau of Statistics has the main capacity to collect statistical data across all sectors, including the Farm to Fork relevant statistical data. At the same time, all ministries and related agencies, which have the responsibility for delivering farm to fork goals, do collect, manage, and disseminate data and information while monitoring and reporting on progress towards Farm to Fork goals individually. There is no coordinating institution tracking unified data from all related sectors.

**Capacity building.** The EU and World Bank put a lot of effort into building the capacity of Moldovan institutions and providing training and support for staff in areas related to the EU's Farm to Fork strategy. ANSA, MAFI, and AIPA are the primary implementers of the Farm to Fork strategy principles, but other related institutions have been involved and receive support as well. The Ministry of Environment has been reorganised after the last elections (previously it was part of the Agriculture Ministry), and although it is one of the main actors in the Green Transition, it has not been empowered enough for stronger environmental mainstreaming in agriculture. For example, each farm benefiting from subsidies is obliged by law to have a permit from the Environmental Agency, but the environmental standards are still very weak in





fostering and stimulating the transition. Furthermore, the competence of the Ministry includes water and forest protection, and even though these are crucial for agriculture and climate adaptation, the allocation of resources for these purposes is very low compared to the resources paid directly to farmers.

**Stakeholder engagement, awareness and communication.** It is common for Moldovan Ministries and competent authorities to consult the public policy documents with civil society, businesses, and other relevant stakeholders, meeting them or through a web page (<https://particip.gov.md/ro>). The development and implementation of the EU Farm to Fork policies, information on the EU Farm to Fork objectives and progress to the public have been communicated through different mass media publications and channels (TV, newspapers, web pages, workshops, etc). This has helped create awareness and support for sustainability initiatives.

**Transparency and accountability.** Most analysed institutions have good transparency and accountability mechanisms, but these are not always used appropriately. Some institutions publish their performance on main activities, events, and annual reports daily, showing responsibility for their performance in implementing the attributed tasks and those related to the Farm to Fork strategy.

### 3.4 Non-governmental actor capacity

#### 3.4.1 Technical and infrastructure capabilities

Overall, the infrastructure capability is very high, as much of the public land and property could be used to support the green transition at different levels. Much of this land remained after the collapse of the USSR, which built research institutes, plants, and other industrial buildings.

**1. Land for demonstration plots and community farming (public and private property).** All research institutes used to have substantial land for experimentation and demonstration. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, due to a lack of financing for machinery and maintenance and corruption, some land was privatised. Today, the Government is very open and motivated to return the land for research. It should be noted that CSOs and the private sector can develop new public-private partnerships to establish efficient land management for common purposes, such as demonstration plots, community farming, etc.

Local public authorities also have community land that residents can rent or purchase (subject to public consultations) exclusively. Furthermore, there is usually plenty of pastureland that is not adequately maintained due to a lack of resources. Moreover, there is land in possession of educational institutions (schools and kindergartens), which in the Soviet Union used to include educational food gardens (many stopped



this activity) and which could potentially be used for living labs, focused, for example, on organic food gardening.

In terms of private property, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the state distributed land to agricultural workers, the “kolkhozes”, and state enterprises. Today, with the rural exodus and massive movement to the capital, many urban residents or migrant landowners do not use their land because they are not actual farmers (even if they come from a family who used to work in kolkhozes).

**2. Buildings for shared use by CSOs and agri-food organisations, such as processing hubs.** Much underused and undervalued public property (both of central and local public authorities) could have been used for community purposes, namely as offices for the organisations and as food processing hubs, social canteens, and other activities at the community level.

**3. Green infrastructure,** which ensures a connection between different green areas, including farms, pastures, parks, and forests, is generally good. Although many forestry strips along the fields during the Soviet era were destroyed, there is still a lot of potential for sustainable land planning and management. For instance, many rivers are still not protected (even though they should be protected by law). Furthermore, there is also abandoned land that no one is maintaining or cultivating. In many cases, it has become semi-wild and can potentially be transformed into green corridors, living hedges, wind breaks, and forests surrounding agricultural fields.

The overall situation of land availability, access, and ownership (private vs. state) is still relatively unknown, as there is a gap in the data. The digital farm registry will solve many of these problems.

### Areas for development

We have identified the following areas for further development:

Access to sanitation and water, quality roads, and transport are some of the most challenging issues for people living in rural areas. Difficult transport access to rural areas increases their isolation and creates difficulties in circulating goods and services.

With state support/subsidies and the help of donors, substantial financing has been provided for refrigerators and storage places for agricultural produce. Association or collective processing facilities, however, are yet to be developed.

Technology, laboratory equipment, and analytical capacities for certification schemes are scarce. Few labs exist, but their use is limited. Specialised facilities are also needed for seed banks and community processing hubs.



**For farmers,** equipment for seed cleaning and storage and equipment for mulching (shredders) are needed; shared equipment and large machinery (e.g., no-till) are also rarely shared (because of a lack of trust) even though they have the potential to reduce on-farm costs significantly.

**For food producers,** organised cooperatives/collective processing hubs and food hygiene guides for small producers are needed.

**For research and innovation,** technology is needed for consistent data collection (e.g., digital maps, satellite monitoring, and respective software), for research infrastructure (e.g., falling roofs, no access to hot water), and proper lab equipment (thermostat, storage for seeds, etc.) needs improvement.

**For the food industry and large retail,** access to infrastructure for composting, food waste reduction (for instance, sorting food that can still be consumed from organic waste that can be composted), sewage treatment systems, biogas production, and green technologies (e.g., renewable energy for on-farm building or transport systems).

### 3.4.2 Green skills and awareness

- 1) **Consumers/Citizens.** Every second person in Moldova knows how to grow food (because she/he has a food garden or a “datcha”) or has relatives living in the rural areas and therefore has access to homegrown and home-produced food. This makes consumers in Moldova highly aware of the quality and taste of naturally produced food (with none or minimal synthetic inputs) and within a diversified agriculture production system. This awareness is why many consumers still prefer to purchase fruits, vegetables, and dairy products in open-air markets, as there they seek small farmers and peasants growing food that they are familiar with. Consumer trust is generally high – consumers do not ask producers to demonstrate any certificate or document related to foodstuffs (milk, cottage cheese, etc). This is one of the strengths of the Moldovan food system.
- 2) **Farmers.**
  - a. **Awareness.** Farmers are aware of the risks and impacts of synthetic inputs, but usually superficially. For instance, there is low awareness of phenomena such as bioaccumulation or pesticides in the air. Climate-smart agriculture awareness is generally low among farming groups overall.
  - b. **Skills.** There is a lack of skills and incentives to make the complete transition to organic or agroecological production systems, and one of the reasons is a lack of respective research in Moldova (there is no research institute wholly dedicated to organic agriculture research). Only recently has organic agriculture been introduced into some study programs at agrarian faculties (Note: there are ongoing



preparations to launch the Research Centre for Organic Horticulture at one of the research institutes, which is a crucial step in the direction of organic agriculture development). For instance, certified organic production of livestock does not exist in Moldova. As a result, there is a high number of consultants who sell agri-inputs and provide short-term solutions to farmers. On another hand, there is substantial agriculture legacy from the period of the Soviet Union (especially from “kolkhoz”) and from diversified home production systems that used to ensure food and nutritional security of every rural family: people used to grow many varieties of fruits and vegetables, have chickens, pigs, cows, etc. Therefore, there is often an intuitive (sometimes pragmatic) approach in creating more closed-loop systems at the local level. For instance, wine producers give the rest of the grape pomace to neighbours who will use it as feed for the sheep, or some farmers collaborate informally with the local livestock or poultry producers using their manure as organic fertiliser. Another highly relevant skill is seed production: many peasants and small peasants used to save and use their own seeds and/or were involved in centralised research-guided seed production, which used to ensure that Moldova produced 100% of its seeds. As MAFI has been steering research institutes back to produce seeds, and there is also a respective target in strategic documents, this is an opportunity to revive and strengthen the skills crucial for the transition to organic agriculture.

- 3) **Artisan food producers.** One of the strengths of Moldovan food systems is a food culture based on handcraft and home processed foods: everything from dairy products (fresh cottage cheese, *branza* cheese from unpasteurised milk, home sour cream), eggs, jams but also fermented foods (cucumbers, tomatoes, cabbage, apples, watermelon), conserved cooked vegetables, to breads from natural yeast. Despite the high demand for these foods, the number of artisan producers is constantly falling. It is mainly an older generation of peasants, especially women, who produce these foods, with fewer young people who continue these traditions. Furthermore, until recently, Moldovan law forbade these foods, as the food hygiene rules were the same for industrial and artisan producers. Although the law was updated, there is still a need for clarity regarding its implementation. In this regard, food hygiene guides are instruments that some states could use to support the development of the skills of artisan food producers.
- 4) **Food industry and large retail.** There is awareness of the green transition, but a lack of incentives and skills. The food industry is usually oriented towards lower production costs rather than its products' environmental and health benefits. It does not always possess the skills needed to be greener. Many struggle to identify greener economic models that would make businesses more profitable while supporting an agroecological transition



(more input consultants are available than those providing lasting, sustainable solutions). For instance, some large agro-holdings have been seeking assistance to diversify their production to increase resilience and profitability, but have had substantial difficulty finding assistance.

- 5) **Education and research.** Moldova has a strong research base and many educational programs for sustainable soil management. Therefore, the potential for developing respective knowledge and skills among farmers is vast. Nevertheless, there is a need for other educational and research directions to be developed within higher educational systems. This includes:
- A more holistic (permaculture) approach to agriculture and food systems (mainstreaming environmental concerns into agriculture and food study programs and demonstrating the economic value of a nature-based approach) and vice versa, integrating agroecology, organic agriculture, and permaculture into study programs such as biology and more traditional curricula.
  - Research on the broader environmental and health benefits of sustainable agriculture (rather than the principle “not to harm” or minimum environmental requirements)
  - Research of the combination of different sub-branches of agriculture into diversified agricultural production and landscape as suggested by the agroecological approach (annuals with perennials, perennials with livestock), e.g. agroforestry, silvo-pastoralism
  - Research on the sustainable use and management of pastureland and High Nature Value Grasslands.
  - Research around nutrition (the study program on Nutrition at Medicine University is very recent; until a few years ago, there was none in Moldova) and the links between nutrition and agriculture, including the role of more diversified diets and prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
  - Data and evidence on the role of women in the green transition (home-manufactured foods, seeds) and healthy diets.
  - Awareness about social capital and the benefits of societal cohesion around food and agriculture
  - Research on circular agriculture, industrial symbiosis and economic model of small family farms
- 6) **Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).** CSOs are the stakeholder group with the highest awareness and skills in the green transition. Collectively, CSOs listed in section 2 would be capable of ensuring the implementation of a green transition across the Moldovan food system. Still, there is a need for stronger coordination, mobilisation and a shared vision and purpose. Many CSOs have the competence in both organic production and healthier food processing. Many CSOs also have diverse skills and experiences in agroforestry, extension services, participatory training for farmers, human rights and social inclusiveness (including people with disabilities). Many are already collaborating with researchers, so strengthening this synergy would



bring substantial benefits to all and help bring about the desired positive environmental, social, and economic impacts.

### 3.4.3 Stakeholder capacity

#### 1. Human resources (HR)

HR is an issue for almost all stakeholders because it implies regular costs, namely salaries. Individually, the non-governmental sector can barely support sectoral institutions to allow for a socially and environmentally just transition and inclusive policymaking, but collectively, it is possible.

#### 2. Funding

There is substantial funding for the CSO sector in Moldova, and there will be more if CSOs can formalise collaboration between themselves and with the government and local public authorities. Some are already doing so. There is, however, a strong need for CSOs to develop an economic model that ensures the functioning of the core team. Sharing administrative costs (e.g., accountancy and shared office spaces) would reduce costs and provide conditions for better coordination and collaboration between the organisations. Moreover, formal partnerships between CSOs, research institutes and local public authorities could help access more financial resources.

#### 3. Mandate

In terms of mandate, research organisations in Moldova have the most substantial weight in promoting and leading the green transition, by providing the scientific basis for policymaking. However, researchers need to produce systematic evidence supporting the green transition, including the reference point and measurement of the progress with the respective indicators and values. More formalised involvement of many food system actors and structured collaboration could synchronise and orchestrate the work of all actors for the common cause, shared goals, and targets. Many actors are working separately without any coordination or synergy.

A common (coordinated with the government and ministries) action plan and monitoring framework for F2F is missing. Such a framework with specific coordination points would help reduce bureaucratic burdens and strengthen synergy between sectors while also helping achieve the desired outcome more efficiently and with fewer costs. Monitoring and evaluation could be based on this common F2F framework and provide the basis for better environmental and agricultural governance. Currently, there are many projects on green, climate-smart agriculture conducted by CSOs, farmers' associations and sometimes local public authorities, but measurement of impact in these projects is not synchronised with the government and ministerial objectives, creating data distortion and unclarity about the real situation. For this, strategic documents also lack a clear role and responsibility of subordinate government agencies in partnership with the research, which is crucial in monitoring the progress, namely through analysis of collected data.





Moreover, such a framework would facilitate communication with citizens about the impact of current policies on their health (including through a better environment and better food) and the impact of EU accession and F2F on their economic situation.

## 4. Crosscutting areas within thematic reports

The main cross-cutting areas covered in this section are finance for transition and the Just Transition.<sup>95</sup>

### 4.1 Finance for transition

The finance for transition section includes an overview of the primary funding schemes supporting Moldova's Farm to Fork green transition. Food systems are multi-dimensional and cut across many different sectors – a summary of the identified notable funding schemes across different relevant sectors in Moldova is presented in Table 5 below. To optimise the opportunities for a green transition and to achieve healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems, a mix of funding schemes and actions will be needed, at national and global levels, across the areas of agriculture, health, water, sanitation, and women and child welfare.

To start, no analysis and evaluation of F2F issues (from farm level to regional and national scale) has been identified regarding the cost-benefit analysis of current and organic/agroecological food systems. Nevertheless, several key issues have been identified during this assessment, which are crucial for efficiently distributing resources for the transition. For instance, the lack of a standard monitoring and evaluation framework for the work of both government and non-government entities is a substantial challenge. In practice, it means that many organisations are doing work and projects. Still, there is no common framework to measure the impact, so it is impossible to have an accurate picture of the state of the agricultural sector.

Apart from the overall monitoring framework, there is also a substantial gap in the current state of ecosystem services generated on organic and conventional farms. As there is an ongoing evaluation process of forest ecosystem services, the same is essential for agroecosystems too. Moreover, the data on farms' efficiency, especially those that receive subsidies, has not been identified in this assessment. While there is research on energy and overall farm efficiency at universities in Moldova, there is a

---

<sup>95</sup> The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines it this way: "Greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind." Across agri-food systems, it is a relatively new concept that focuses on ensuring that farmers, food workers, food manufacturers, citizens (consumers) and others are supported during a green transition to food systems that are sustainable, healthy and fair. Further information can be found here: [Climate justice: The challenge of achieving a 'just transition' in agriculture - Carbon Brief](#)



lack of information on the concrete situation of subsidy beneficiaries. For instance, the production costs (how much is spent on agrochemicals whose price has been growing, and also monoculture production system, and individual farms vs. cooperatives) as farm inputs versus farm outputs which include not only food (measured in tonnes), but also food diversity, food quality and ecosystem services which are generated or on the contrary, are degenerated by poor farming practices. One such example is the transformation of diversified and nature-based landscapes (including forests, rivers, and dynamic pastures) to poor, uniform monoculture fields, which are less aesthetically attractive for tourism and perform poorly at pest and disease management.

There is also a substantial lack of data on the environmental and health costs of conventional agriculture and food systems to Moldova's economy. While water pollution and soil erosion, or obesity level, have been measured by some organisations and in specific contexts, there is no clear monetary estimation at a state level, demonstrating the results from the pollution caused by the abuse of agrochemicals and poor land planning in agriculture. Consequently, the value of the work realised by the Ministry of Environment remains abstract and unclear to other decision-makers. It often results in neglect of environmental concerns and a small budget allocated to the Ministry of Environment, which is responsible for environmental remediation.

According to a World Bank<sup>96</sup> report, total public expenditure on agriculture in Moldova is equivalent to approximately 2% of GDP, including 0.6% in tax expenditures. Public spending on agriculture is through direct budget and tax expenditures (foregone tax revenues). Direct budget spending is through subsidies (current and capital), services (research, education, food safety, and extension services), and donor-supported programs.

Tax expenditures include reduced corporate income tax (CIT), value-added tax (VAT), social security contributions (SSCs), and health contribution rates. Tax concessions, which include reduced tax rates, exemptions, and deductions, can also be tax expenditures. Tax expenditures can be made more efficient, cost-effective, and equitable. Direct budget spending's allocative efficiency has improved, but concerns about efficiency and equity remain. Allocative efficiency in direct budget spending on agriculture has improved.<sup>97</sup>

The primary funding scheme that supports the implementation of the EU Farm to Fork goals is the **National Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development**. In 2023, the subsidies paid to agri-food producers and processors reached 1.9 billion Moldovan lei

---

<sup>96</sup> World Bank (2013). *Moldova Public Expenditure Review : Capital Expenditures - Making Public Investment Work for Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth in Moldova*. © Washington, DC. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/16766> License: [CC BY 3.0 IGO](#)

<sup>97</sup> idem





(approximately 80 million EUR). The private sector also contributed a similar proportion of funding. It should be noted that not all of this budget contributed to the implementation of the green transition and the EU farm to fork goals, with a significant proportion of subsidies allocated for the modernisation of the agricultural sector, aiming to increase the competitiveness and sustainability of the industry and increase food production. Some measures do, however, directly support practices oriented to implementing new sustainable production technologies, decreasing production costs/inputs use/reducing land tillage and implementing carbon sequestration practices.

In 2023, AIPA paid 52.9 million lei to farmers for additional subsidies<sup>98</sup> (including organic agriculture, implementing environment-friendly technologies, etc.). These additional subsidies contribute directly to achieving a 50% reduction in chemical and more hazardous pesticides by 50% by 2030. Furthermore, the aim is to reduce nutrient losses by at least 50% while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility. This will reduce the use of synthetic fertilisers by at least 20% by 2030.

Various donor-funded programs and other funding schemes are essential in implementing the green transition and the EU Farm to Fork goals in Moldova. These include:

**The World Bank financed the Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project.** The Project Development Objective is to enhance the competitiveness of the country's agri-food sector by supporting the modernisation of the food safety management systems, including facilitating market access for farmers and mainstreaming agri-environmental and sustainable land management practices. These objectives are achieved through activities aimed at:

- Strengthening country capacity to manage the increasingly complex food safety agenda.
- Increasing levels of farmer organization and improving post-harvest infrastructure.
- Promoting farmers' adoption of sustainable land management practices and ensuring the authorities' strengthened response to soil degradation challenges.

Farmers can benefit from direct financial support through post-investment grants to compensate for the expenses of procuring high-performance agricultural equipment

---

<sup>98</sup> Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 464 dated May 7, 2023 regarding the approval of the Regulation on complementary subsidy measures and the specific conditions of eligibility for complementary subsidies from the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and the Rural Environment and the repeal of Government Decision no. 455/2017 regarding the distribution of the means of the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and the Rural Environment.,(2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at: [https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=138016&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=138016&lang=ro)



and machinery that ensures soil conservation. This includes irrigation equipment and systems, as well as the implementation of soil protection measures for farm practices by applying agrotechnical, plant improvement, and hydrotechnical measures to ensure sustainable land management.

Investment grants constitute up to 30% of the total investment, with a ceiling of 10 thousand US dollars<sup>99</sup>.

**Agriculture Governance, Growth and Resilience project.** This is financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development with a value of 50.1 million euros. It was launched in December 2023 and will be completed by 2029. The project aims to improve food safety management, rehabilitate the livestock sector and modernise irrigation systems. Under the first component, “improving governance and agricultural management knowledge”, support is provided to AIPA in assimilating upcoming pre-accession EU funds (IPARD supports rural and agrifood reforms), to ANSA for strengthening/modernizing veterinary services. The second component, “Growth through development of value chains”, focuses on milk and meat sectors, including, for example, investments in biogas production. Under this component, farmers/investors can access grants up to 1 million USD, but not more than 50% of the total investment.<sup>100</sup>

**International Fund for Agricultural Development.** The activities provided under these programs are implemented by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) IFAD in collaboration with and/or through accredited service providers and participating financial institutions, depending on the specifics of the activities implemented.

One of the most relevant activities is improving farmers' capacity to adapt to climate change; increasing the rural population's access to loans by offering timely and accessible financial products; increasing productivity and competitiveness; increasing investment; and developing increased market access.<sup>101</sup>

**Credit line Livada Moldovei.** The European Investment Bank (EIB) offers this credit line to the Government of the Republic of Moldova, which grants loans to the participating commercial banks. The appropriations are intended for investments in

---

<sup>99</sup> UCIMPA (2022). *Post-investment grants program “Sustainable land management”*. Available at: <https://www.capmu.md/en/2022/09/programul-de-granturi-post-institutionale-destinate-managementului-durabil-al-terenurilor/> (Accessed: 28 January 2024)

<sup>100</sup> Crivoi, L. (2023). Proiectul AGGRI: granturi pentru sectorul zootehnic. Vezi detalii. In Agrobiznes. Available at: [https://agrobiznes.md/proiectul-aggri-granturi-pentru-sectorul-zootehnic-vezi-detalii.html?goal=0\\_2cfa20d609-f26425ed24-122646137](https://agrobiznes.md/proiectul-aggri-granturi-pentru-sectorul-zootehnic-vezi-detalii.html?goal=0_2cfa20d609-f26425ed24-122646137) (Accessed: 28 January 2024)

<sup>101</sup> UCIP IFAD (2024). *UCIP IFAD*. Available at: <https://www.ucipifad.md/en/> (Accessed: 28 January 2024)



the horticultural sector. The credit line of 120 million EUR became operational in 2016. Credit Livada Moldovei comes with support and advice in developing investment projects, ensuring the implementation of climate adaptation and sustainable practices across the sector. In 2023, the project was extended until May 2025, including livestock and cereals production sector investments.<sup>102</sup>

**ADMA** supports farmers through a leasing mechanism to improve agricultural productivity by providing agricultural machinery and post-harvest equipment to small and medium-sized private enterprises. Preferential conditions are also available for agricultural enterprises run by women or young people (up to 36 years).

**FAO finances** various activities in Moldova aimed at increasing the resilience and adaptability of Moldova's agricultural sector to cope with the impact of climate change, through a sustainable and inclusive approach. Both the national FAO office in Moldova and the regional FAO office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REU) have been supporting various activities through different actors (including different CSOs) in areas of organic agriculture, agroecology, resilient seeds and biodiversity for food and agriculture.

Food systems are multidimensional and involve many different sectors. To achieve healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems, synergy of funding schemes and actions is needed at the national level in agriculture, health, water, sanitation, women and child welfare, and nutrition.

Several additional financing schemes, not necessarily related directly to food and agriculture, have a direct and indirect attribution to the successful implementation of the EU Farm to Fork strategy in Moldova. These include:

1. **The National Regional Development Fund's** resources are granted primarily to the first-level public administration authorities for regional and local development projects, for implementing the National Regional Development Strategy, which includes all investment projects (approved for financing from NFRLD sources. 541 projects were finalised in 2023 with a total budget of 759 million lei. Some of these investment projects (in food processing, for example, installing solar batteries, refrigerators to prevent food waste, etc.) contribute to the green transition and the implementation of the EU Farm to Fork principles.
2. **The National Environment Fund** exclusively finances programs and projects to protect the environment, combat climate change, and sustainably

---

<sup>102</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (2024) Activity report for 2023, available as PDF copy upon request.



- manage natural resources (including soil, water, and land and water biodiversity).
3. **The Energy Efficiency Fund** is part of the overall effort by the Moldovan government to increase the country's energy efficiency, lessen its dependence on energy imports and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to ensure Moldova's compliance with its international obligations and commitments in the energy efficiency area. The Fund will incorporate best global practices in corporate governance and energy efficiency and provide a sustainable financial instrument for Moldovan citizens to meet their needs in support of energy consumption reductions through energy efficiency measures. Moldova's Ministry of Energy announced that an Energy Efficiency Fund for the residential sector will become operational in 2024, with a budget of 723 million lei (145 million euros) from the government's Energy Efficiency Obligations Program. The fund plans to provide non-repayable funding of up to 70 per cent of the total costs required for implementing energy efficiency measures and using renewables in the residential sector, with the remainder to be covered by residents.
  4. **Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA)**. Recently, the ODA implemented a support program entitled "greening SMEs." This program offers investment grants up to 25 thousand euros per beneficiary, with resources allocated from the state budget and the EU. Sustainability aspects are key conditions for the beneficiaries of the support.
  5. **Credit Guarantee Fund** - Farmers in the Republic of Moldova benefit from financial guarantees for accessing loans to commercial banks through the Credit Guarantee Fund (CGF), which the Organisation manages for the Development of Entrepreneurship (ODA). CGF has signed partnership agreements with all 11 commercial banks in the country, and guaranteed products covering up to 80% of the amount of credit requested by farmers, the value of guarantees ranging from 500 thousand MDL for start-up companies to 7 million MDL for companies exporting. At the same time, in the context of the health and energy crisis, all guarantees issued in 2022 are exempt from the payment of the guaranteed fee for the first year of action of the guarantee, and the maximum guaranteed quota for all active companies has been increased to 80% of the contracted credit. Since the launch of CGF, agricultural companies have been granted 469 financial guarantees amounting to MDL 217.03 million (11 m euro), which have facilitated access to loans amounting to MDL 555.89 million (28 m euro). The principle of "greening the financial guarantees" goes hand in hand with the principle of



“greening the loans”, with the green transition and sustainability aspects being obligatory requirements.

6. **The Moldovan Food Bank** finances activities related to consumer education on reducing food waste, preventing food waste, and reducing food insecurity.

Additional financial levers can be used to support a green transition. These include, for example, public procurement. Public Procurement, which accounts for up to 20% of GDP in Eastern European and the Caucasus countries, offers a largely untapped opportunity to drive business and domestic markets to innovate and increase sustainability. Governments can improve their environment and quality of life by purchasing more sustainable goods, works and services. Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is about spending public funds on products/services/projects that promote sustainable development and a green economy transition. International, European, national and other standards can encourage manufacturers to implement sustainable management and production systems. Ecological labels or “eco-labels” can support SPP by providing information on the environmental performance of products and services throughout their lifecycle. Eco-labels can take many forms (written claims or declarations, tables or matrices, labels or logos), helping the ever-growing environmentally conscious consumer base quickly identify products that meet certain environmental and social criteria. For businesses, eco-labels are a means of measuring, communicating and marketing their socio-environmental credentials.

To conclude, Moldova has some good mechanisms/financial schemes to promote the alignment of finance across related sectors to policy coherence objectives and to track associated expenses to the green transition and the EU Farm to Fork area. In the future, it's essential to maximise the synergy of these schemes during the planning and implementation process. This includes the distribution of roles/functions and funds according to the attributed functions and objectives, so they complement each other, ensuring the food systems are sustainable, fair and resilient. Significant investments are needed to finance the transition to organic and agroecological agriculture. Limited knowledge and access to training on sustainable practices are barriers for farmers, and a lack of access to affordable finance and limited incentives for sustainable investment constrain agricultural sector transformation.

To overcome the critical barriers of the sector, recommendations are proposed that include encouraging the collaboration of public-private partnerships, developing capacity and expertise, encouraging research and development for local solutions, integrating sustainability into the main financial products, strengthening regulatory frameworks for financing sustainable and maintaining the policy and regulatory environment updated according to the needs. More specifically, these should be formulated in a clear inter-sectoral common policy framework that starts from coordinated SMART objectives, indicators and clear roles, including those of CSOs and researchers involved in the process. It is also highly recommended that donor



organisations coordinate and inform them of this framework so that all the actors are synchronised and the progress towards common goals is measured uniformly.

**Table 5. Notable Farm to Fork funding and financing policies and initiatives in Moldova**

Name of the instrument	Description, including segment/target groups and the measure it covers	Budget allocation, if any	Level of adoption	Reference or link to follow up
<b>Subsidies from the National Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development</b>	Agri-food producers and processors	1.9 billion lei/2023		Agency for Intervention and Payments in Agriculture
<b>Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project, financed by the World Bank</b>	Farmers/to implement sustainable land management practices.	Investment grants will constitute up to 30% of the total investment, with a ceiling of 10 thousand US dollars.		CAPMU
<b>Agriculture Governance, Growth and Resilience project/ WB financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development</b>	Under the first component, "improving governance and agricultural management knowledge," support will be provided to AIPA in assimilating upcoming pre-accession EU funds (IPARD supports rural and agro-food reforms) and ANSA in strengthening/modernising veterinary services.  The second component, "Growth through development of value chains", will focus on the milk and meat sectors.	50.1 million EUR  Under this component, farmers/investors can access grants up to 1 million USD, but not more than 50% of the total investment.		CAPMU
<b>International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</b>	Improving the capacity of farmers to adapt to climate change; increasing the access of the rural population to loans	Investment grants and loans		PIU/IFAD
<b>Livada Moldovei/ Fruit Garden/ EIB credit line</b>	Investments in horticulture, livestock and cereals production sector	28 m EUR/ until May 2025		PIU/Fruit Garden



## Moldova

<b>Agency for Development and Modernisation of Agriculture (ADMA)</b>	Support for farmers/small and medium-sized private enterprises, with preferential conditions for agricultural enterprises run by women or young people (up to 36 years).	Through a leasing mechanism, it aims at improving agricultural productivity by providing agricultural machinery and post-harvest equipment	PIU/ADMA
<b>Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)</b>	Financing different activities in Moldova, aiming at increasing the resilience and adaptability of Moldova's agricultural sector to cope with the impact of climate change through a sustainable and inclusive approach.	Assistance and small investment grants, and small grants to CSOs	FAO/Chisinau Office
<b>Organisation for Entrepreneurship Development (ODA)</b>	Support program "Greening SMEs" provides investment grants of up to 25 thousand euros per beneficiary.  Financial guarantees (CGF) for accessing loans	Resources are being allocated both from the state budget and the EU.  Since the launch of CGF, agricultural companies have been granted 469 financial guarantees amounting to MDL 217.03 million (11 m euro), facilitating access to loans amounting to MDL 555.89 million (28 m euro).	ODA
<b>National Regional Development Fund (NRDF)</b>	Regional and local development projects. Some investment projects contribute to the green transition and implement the EU Farm to Fork principles.	759 million lei/2023.	NRDF





<b>National Environment Fund (NEF)</b>	Exclusively financing programs and projects aiming at environmental protection, climate change and sustainable management of natural resources.	Grants to CSOs of various sizes. Recent call	NEF
<b>Energy Efficiency Fund (EEF)</b>	A sustainable financial instrument for Moldovan citizens to meet their needs in support of energy consumption reductions through energy efficiency measures.	723 million lei (145 million euros)	EEF
<b>Moldovan Food Bank (MFB)</b>	Finance activities related to the education of consumers on reducing food waste, preventing food waste and reducing food insecurity		MFB
<b>Public Procurement Agency (PPA)</b>	UNEP also builds the capacity of businesses and small and medium enterprises to respond to public tenders with sustainability criteria.	Up to 20% of GDP	PPA

## 4.2 Just Transition

Overall, the key aspects of the Just Transition theme, under the context of the Farm to Fork thematic area, include equal employment opportunities, the inclusion of underrepresented groups in the workforce, and the provision of training and funding to support the just transition. The EU Communication on the European Green Deal states that, “Farmers and fishers need to transform their production methods to make the best use of nature-based, technological, digital, and space-based solutions to deliver better climate and environmental results, increase climate resilience and reduce and optimise the use of inputs”. This process of transition and transformation of food production and consumption is very complex. It involves transitional support, in terms of financial and human resources, for the agri-food actors most impacted by the transition.

The European Council and the European Parliament have agreed to allocate as much as €387 billion over seven years to meet the significant challenges of implementing the





Green Deal under a “reformed” EU common agriculture policy.<sup>103</sup> With supporting budget, a transition plan must be prepared and adopted by the Moldovan Government to ensure any transition is fair. The Government of Moldova will need to provide support and synergy across related sectors and decide how important is each one; agriculture, food safety, health, environment, sanitation, water, welfare is within the overall context of the Green Deal, for reducing GHG emissions and achieving its sustainable development goals and nationally determined contribution targets.

Those employed in the agri-food sector are playing a crucial role in ensuring the success of the reform and transition or transformation of the currently existing food system into a sustainable and more resilient one. The transition will largely affect the workforce and employment in all related sectors in the implementation of the F2F strategy. Professionally tailored employee training programs must be developed and delivered to all potentially affected sectors. This is happening already and should be done gradually, step by step.

### 4.2.1 Current employment in the sector

In 2020, 21% of the total working population in the Republic of Moldova was employed in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, down from almost 40% in 2018. Agriculture is currently the second largest employer in the country after Public Administration, Education, Health & Social Work. This includes peasant farms but not rural households. The number of people working in the agricultural sector in Moldova has decreased by approximately 600,000 in the past 23 years, according to economic policy expert Veaceslav Ioniță. Ioniță said that the decrease in farm workers is due to the intensification of agricultural production, which has increased productivity per worker. However, he warned that this trend could have negative consequences for the sector, as it could lead to a shortage of qualified workers. Ioniță said that investments in specialised education are needed to ensure that the agricultural sector has a skilled workforce. He also called for the government to improve working conditions in the sector and provide social protection for agricultural workers. This is especially relevant for seasonal and immigrant workers.

The annual agricultural production of Moldova is at the level of 40-45 billion MDL. This ensures, together with the processing industry, up to 45% of the total Moldovan exports. In 2000, the number of people employed in agricultural activities was 770,000. Currently, 179 thousand people work in the field, of which only 35,000 have employment contracts. The rest work independently (including seasonal and

---

<sup>103</sup> Millns, J. (2022). *European Green Deal and potential Policy and Investment implication for Moldovan Agriculture*, available in PDF upon request



immigrant workers). The average age of the person involved in agricultural activities was 43.7 years in 2010. In 2022, it was 46.2 years.<sup>104</sup>

Women account for 39% of the workforce in the agricultural sector in the country<sup>105</sup> and are involved in various agricultural sub-sectors: production, harvesting, processing, and marketing. They play specific roles in various agriculture and food-related activities at the professional and family level: from saving seeds to feeding their families and developing food habits. As women are the leading promoters of greener and healthier agriculture and food production, they are key actors for local change. They therefore will benefit from the green transition and the jobs that will be created. Capacity development (including vocational training) will be necessary to ensure success.

In close cooperation with development partners, the government launched support programs encouraging and helping women start sustainable agrifood businesses corresponding to the principles of green transition and the F2F strategy. Moldova has many success stories in the agrifood sector with women-run new companies.

Small-scale farming (micro and medium agricultural producers, processing up to ten hectares of land) is a predominant model in the Republic of Moldova, and smallholders (including family farms) play an essential role in the country's agriculture, rural development and economy. Smallholders and family farms generated over 60% of the country's total volume of agricultural produce in 2022. Although that was a slight decrease compared to the previous year (62%), it is still a significant contribution to overall food production and food security in the Republic of Moldova.

As small-scale farmers tend to ensure a certain level of self-subsistence agriculture, it is safe to say that they are also consumers of their produce and, therefore, drivers of the demand for more nutritious and diversified foods.

The development of the family farming sector in the Republic of Moldova will support self-employment and the revitalisation of rural areas and communities. It will also develop sustainable agriculture, ensure an efficient use of natural resources, and make agriculture more attractive to youth, who are the key to ensuring the sustainable development of the agricultural food system in the future.

Despite being a significant sector, there are no laws specifically regulating the activity of smallholders and family farms in the Republic of Moldova. This category of

---

<sup>104</sup> Radio Moldova (2023). *Number of people working in Moldovan agriculture decreases by 600,000 in 23 years*. Available at: <https://radiomoldova.md/p/19416/number-of-people-working-in-moldovan-agriculture-decreases-by-600-000-in-23-years> (Accessed: March 15 2024)

<sup>105</sup> ILO (2021) *A synergy of growth and employment opportunities: A market systems analysis of the berry sector in the Republic of Moldova*. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/budapest/what-we-do/publications/WCMS\\_789901/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/budapest/what-we-do/publications/WCMS_789901/lang-en/index.htm)



agricultural producers/self-employed is ruled by the general laws regulating agricultural activity, food safety, cooperation regulations and subsidy policies. So, the activity of all smallholders and family farms officially registered as legal entities (peasant farms, individual enterprises, limited liability companies) is ruled by the respective laws and by the civil, labour, land, fiscal, and other laws<sup>106</sup>. The National Action Plan for Family Farming, which MAFI is developing in collaboration with the FAO REU, aims to address this issue.

### 4.2.2 Endangered jobs due to the green transition

Current jobs that do not align with the principles of green transition, such as employees involved in producing mineral fertilisers or pesticides, will need to be supported/trained and engaged in other sectors (for example, producing organic fertilisers and organic plant protection products). Other employees will migrate to other industries. As many of the input providers have an agronomic background, they can change their profile, adjusting to different needs in agricultural production.

Apart from farmers who sell directly at the market, some intermediaries resell agricultural produce. They could become those who help to coordinate farmers' cooperatives, thus increasing efficiency, collaboration, product quality and small farmers' access to the market. The same applies to those who import seeds or synthetic fertilisers. People will need to engage in local production of seeds, compost, biochar and other organic fertilisers. Currently, almost all organic waste is mixed with other waste and transported to a dump. Creating a system of recovery of organic waste could thus not only create jobs but also solve a highly problematic environmental issue.

As F2F and green transition strengthen short value chains and farmers' markets, large retail such as supermarkets might be affected, decreasing employee numbers. On the other hand, seeing the experience in the EU, it is more likely that supermarkets will start developing their production and industry, thus creating new job opportunities.

Moving towards healthier and sustainable dietary patterns, which include a higher consumption of plant-based products and lower consumption of some types of meat, such as red meat, could threaten the livelihoods of livestock producers due to reduced demand. Workers in the meat supply chain could also be impacted.

### 4.2.3 Potential of new jobs in the sector due to the green transition in the agri-food system

There are potential significant opportunities for job creation in any Farm to Fork transition (a move to organic food production and a shift in dietary patterns). It is about redirecting the existing knowledge and competence of the actors towards a

---

<sup>106</sup> National Action Plan on Family Farms in the Republic of Moldova/FAO 2023 under development



greener and more socially oriented approach. The few examples above demonstrate some of the possibilities. One of the crucial aspects is digitalisation and technology. Developing green technologies for agriculture and more sustainable living will create jobs for engineers and IT specialists. One such example is biogas production. Furthermore, the local production of seeds will increase female employment and decrease local production costs for farmers, along with other inputs, the use of which will be optimised. As agroecological systems include mixed crop-animal production, extensive livestock producers will grow, thus creating new jobs for rural people. Strengthened silvo-pastoralism, agroforestry, and synergy with the forestry sector will help develop more sustainable forest management, providing high-quality wood and, thus, more financial resources for local communities.

At the level of processing, there will also be many job opportunities, as, instead of exporting primary production (e.g. apples, prunes), it will be transformed locally into juices, jams, ciders, vinegar, etc., raising their added value and bringing more economic benefits to local communities. Furthermore, there will be more farmers as the fields with the grain crops will diversify, giving rise to new orchards, berries, and vegetable gardens, which require more manual work.

Agritourism and ecotourism are other branches already starting to revitalise Moldovan villages, attracting investments and consumers to rural areas. They foster the development of HoReCa at the local level, thus creating more job opportunities for local people. Moreover, natural activities such as hiking, biking, birdwatching, hobby fishing, etc., will require more specialists and people involved. The attraction of more tourists to rural areas could strengthen the cultural sector and thus give a new boost to the revival of local traditions, customs and associated artisanal (food and non-food) production.

As society moves towards healthier and more sustainable diets, farmers with arable land may profit from new market opportunities to satisfy an increasing demand for more plant-based food. Jobs in plant-based and novel alternative sectors, including research and innovation, are expected to grow. Raising demand for plant-based food, including meat alternatives, could create new business opportunities for companies. A shift towards healthier and more sustainable lifestyles can bring other socio-economic benefits, such as lower public healthcare costs.

In summary, agriculture and food production will become more diversified and socially complex (e.g., cooperatives, food hubs, markets, social canteens), and therefore have the potential to create many new job opportunities, benefiting a range of stakeholders along the value chain. The transformation of jobs will happen across sectors, adjusting to new requirements and realities. This will help reduce the population's exodus and involve youth and women in agrifood activities, ensuring the sustainability of the agrifood system.



However, it is crucial to note that for this to happen, the government, particularly MAFI and the Ministry of Economy, should develop and commit to new approaches to creating business models rooted in the environmental and social sustainability of locally based agriculture and food systems.

#### **4.2.4 Training programs specifically created to build green transition capacity**

Training programs aimed at building green transition capacity are delivered through various sectoral approaches. These include training (offered by EU, IFAD, FAO, WB) in implementing sustainable practices, organic agriculture, conservation agriculture, environment-friendly practices, waste management, circular economy, etc.

Vocational training existed at universities during the Soviet Union. Currently, there are discussions and interest in reviving this practice. This will need to be strengthened by the development of research in organic agriculture and healthy diets, which will build evidence of the social, environmental, and economic impacts of the green transition. Not many young people are interested in agri-food research (PhD and further), despite the need for them.

To achieve the green and social objectives, along with the economic ones, there will be a need for a lot of research and innovation, and therefore, the existing research will be strengthened, and more professionals will be needed to accompany the transition. More training for trainers will need to be provided, too. For instance, there is a need for experts in organic production and permaculture, ecology, veterinarians, nutritionists and more public health specialists in preventive medicine. Women's employment will be positively affected as these professions are usually more practised by women. The same applies to food processing.

Overall, besides developing new skills and knowledge in production and nutrition, higher societal organisations will require professionals with higher education and management skills, fostering the creation of more effective institutions and organisations. This will create conditions and a market for highly skilled professionals and, due to its attractive salaries, help retain the youth in the country.



## 5. Summary and conclusions

### 5.1 Current state of the green transition

The agri-food sector in Moldova plays a significant role in the country's economy, employing over 21% of the country's labour force and accounting for 12% of Moldova's GDP. The agri-food and fisheries sector combined represents, on average, about 13% of GDP and approximately 45% of total exports. Most farmers (97.7%) are small-scale, with farm sizes ranging between 0.85 and 10 hectares. Smallholders and family farms contribute to the sector, as they generate 63% of the country's total agricultural production (including home-processed, artisan foods) and make an essential contribution to the maintenance and enhancement of the biodiversity of rural areas.

Horticulture, viticulture, livestock, and cereal production are the mainstays of the agricultural output, with seven products, including cereals, grapes, pigs, poultry, milk, fruits, and vegetables, driving 90% of the farm output. Not all farmland in Moldova is fully utilised, with an estimated 18-20% of the agricultural land going uncultivated. Moldova exported 22,321 tonnes of organic food to the EU in 2020, making the country an important trading partner for organic produce.

Moldova has shown limited progress towards achieving the diet-related non-communicable disease (NCD) targets. 22.9% of adult (aged 18 years and over) women and 18.3% of adult men are living with obesity. In 2020, 25% of the population was moderately or severely food insecure.

The agri-food sector in Moldova faces several key challenges. The industry is characterized by low productivity, an agri-food economic vision based on significant quantities of fertilisers and pesticides, and inefficient local food processing (generating added value). Climate change significantly negatively impacts the sector's productivity (increasing droughts, flooding, etc.). There is also little adoption of climate adaptation technologies, such as water saving techniques (drip irrigation, mulching, etc.), little understanding of the importance of crop rotations in maintaining soil health or the importance of agrobiodiversity as opposed to monoculture production techniques. Furthermore, Climate Smart Agriculture practices face additional hurdles such as limited access to technical assistance and financial resources, especially for small-scale farmers.

In 2020, agriculture contributed 11.3% of Moldova's total GHG emissions. Within Moldova's climate action plan, there is a commitment to actively promote the implementation of climate-resilient agricultural practices through a wide range of practices (fertiliser application optimisation, crop diversification, better irrigation, improved soil health, etc.) Furthermore, Moldova has a National Climate Change Adaptation Program (up to 2030) and an Action Plan, designed to enhance climate resilience across the agricultural sector.





Most of the agricultural emissions come from the livestock sector. Enteric fermentation, manure management, and manure applied to soils are the largest sources of emissions from the agriculture sector in Moldova. Moldova's agricultural emissions decreased from 1.99 million tonnes (Mt) to 1.54 Mt in 2018-2020 (no data is available since 2020, and it is unknown whether these emissions have continued). These reductions have been achieved through a combination of measures, including the introduction of new technologies, an increase in the use of techniques such as no-till or minimum-tillage agriculture, and an increase in land under organic cultivation. Most of these emissions come from livestock production and biomass burning in rural areas. Meat consumption has shown modest rises over the past five years (2018-2022), which has driven both increases in domestic livestock production and imports of livestock products.

Despite the state support for organic production, the area of the organic output slightly increased from approximately 21,000/ha to 27,000/ha, representing only 1.5% of the arable area. Pesticide usage has increased from 4,490 tons in 2018 to 4,713 tons in 2022, and the country is still dealing with a legacy of large quantities of stored and now-banned persistent organic pesticides used during the Soviet era to increase food production.

The import and application of mineral fertilisers increased from 319,000 tons to 399,000 tons between 2018 and 2021 and then decreased to 216,000 tons in 2022 due to the war in Ukraine and supply-side logistical challenges. Poor application of chemical fertilisers continues to cause significant soil and groundwater pollution with nitrates. The ineffective control of animal waste/nutrients is also an important source of soil and water pollution. Almost half of the river sites in Moldova are moderately to highly polluted with phosphorus.

Publicly available data on the use of veterinary antibiotics in Moldova only covers the last three years and shows a modest increase in usage during that time.

In 2022, the government adopted a Food Security Strategy 2023-2030, highlighting that food availability in Moldova is not a significant challenge. However, domestic agricultural production is vulnerable to the impacts of climate extremes. Low-income households still feel food insecurity when high production and price volatility affect food availability and access.

Moldova has shown limited progress towards achieving diet-related non-communicable disease (NCD) targets. 22.9% of adult (aged 18 years and over) women and 18.3% of adult men are living with obesity. The current level of meat consumption (56.9 kg/year) far surpasses the recommended intake of 15.6 kg per year (equivalent to 300 grams per week) as suggested by the EAT-Lancet Commission. In 2019, Moldova produced its first dietary guidelines, 'Guide to Good Practice: rational nutrition, food safety and changing nutrition behaviours', which guides healthy eating practice.





## Moldova

---

In November 2022, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted a food loss and waste reduction law; however, no specific waste reduction targets or particular food waste figures appear to be available. Most food waste and loss originates from damage and losses during harvest and post-harvest (storage, transport, and handling). The poor quality of storage facilities across the country is another problem, resulting in excessive losses of potatoes, apples and vegetables stored through the winter. Limited access to cold storage and sanitation also results in meat and milk production losses.

Table 6. EGD objectives/targets and current status/progress in the name of the thematic area

EGD objectives and targets (including 8th EAP targets and indicators)	Relevant EGD indicators and EU level reference (8th EAP)	Assessment (relevant country indicators/level of achievement)
<b>Farm to fork</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Halve per capita food waste at retail and consumer levels</b>, and reduce food losses along production land supply chains, including poor-harvest losses, by 2030.</li> <li>• <b>Reduction targets for ammonia and nitrates</b> (National Emissions Ceilings Directive; The Nitrates Directive)</li> <li>• By 2030, a <b>reduction by 50% of the sales of antimicrobials</b> for farmed animals and in aquaculture (indicative)</li> <li>• By 2030, reduce <b>losses of nutrients from fertilisers by 50%</b>, resulting in the reduction of the use of fertilisers by at least 20% (indicative)</li> <li>• <b>At least 25% of agricultural land is under organic farming</b> management, and the uptake of agro-ecological practices is significantly increased (indicative)</li> <li>• <b>Reduce by 50%</b> the overall use of – and risk from – chemical <b>pesticides</b> (indicative)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Area under organic farming</b> (% of utilised agricultural area in km<sup>2</sup>) Source: Eurostat EU 2021= 9.9%</p> <p><b>Pesticide use</b> - Eurostat recently published EU-level data on the sales of plant protection products (here) with detailed indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pesticide sales (aei_fm_salpest09)</li> <li>• Pesticide use in agriculture (aei_pest)</li> <li>• Harmonised risk indicator 1 for pesticides by categorisation of active substances (aei_hri)</li> <li>• Pesticide sales by categorisation of active substances (aei_pestsal)</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of fertilisers</b> – Consumption of inorganic fertilisers Source: <a href="#">Eurostat</a> See the Moldova indicator example <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>To consider Animal Welfare indicators (not yet available at the EU level)</p>	<p>Overall, there is a substantial gap in data on many of the indicators for F2F. The indicators contained within the key strategy documents are mainly related to an increase in productivity of specific sectors (e.g., livestock production, food industry) rather than a decrease in the use of key agricultural inputs:</p> <p><b>Food waste</b> - No food waste and loss targets are available across the agricultural sector. Food waste related to the food and beverage industry was 2,500-3,000 thousand tons for 2018-2022.</p> <p><b>Reduction targets for ammonia and nitrates</b> are not available, although there is some limited indication that pollutants have decreased across the agriculture sector compared to 1990.</p> <p>The Environmental Strategy 2023-2030 indicates that this data is still collected (regarding water quality for mineral phosphorus, total phosphorus and nitrite nitrogen indicators, e.g. these correspond to class V (highly polluted) in lakes Congaz and Taraclia), however the indicators contained are limited to identification, delimitation and recording of vulnerable to nitrates areas (%) and the proportion of underground water bodies that reached the "good quality" class - II, according to analytical chemical parameters, dissolved metals, pesticides (from 18.9% to 30% in 2026).</p> <p><b>Sales of antimicrobials</b>—Sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals have increased in recent years, reaching 14,634 tons (2020), 19,613 tons (2021), and 16,176 tons (2022). There are no specific reduction targets for these.</p>

**Reduction in fertiliser usage**—Fertiliser usage has increased yearly but dipped in 2022. Usage was 319,624 tons in 2018, 335,242 tons in 2019, 350,860 tons in 2020, 399,512 tons in 2021, and 216,400 tons in 2022. There are no specific targets for reducing these.

**The area of land under organic farming**—The National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2023-2030 includes some indicators. Still, the target is lower than the EU one: The percentage of agricultural land areas registered in organic farming must be at least 10% by 2030. Currently, the area registered under organic farming is modest. Approximately 1.5% of the total agricultural land.

Support for **agri-environment and climate practices** for at least 5% of agricultural land; and the application of good agricultural practices, including conservation agriculture with a target of an area of at least 150 thousand ha of agricultural land; and increasing the share of local varieties from the total of varieties and hybrids by at least 10%. The areas of the protective forest strips extended over an area of 3,000 ha.

**Pesticide usage**—Pesticide consumption in the Republic of Moldova was last evaluated in 2018 (Report for 2010-2018). There are no specific targets for reducing it.

**Animal welfare** – Animal welfare indicators are generally lacking.

In addition, there is a substantial gap in many other indicators and their correlation for other areas covered by the F2F strategy: for example, agriculture and food systems-related GHG, the quantity of fish sourced from sustainable fisheries sources (%), including imports, water quality indicators, and food security (% of people who are moderately or severely food insecure). Even though there is some research on energy efficiency in Moldovan agriculture and food systems, it is not integrated into any strategy.



### 5.2 Summary of the gap assessment

Overall, the F2F sector in Moldova is at its beginning in the pursuit of a green transition, but there is a will and significant effort from the state in achieving its goals. The government, especially the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the Ministry of Environment, have made substantial efforts to transpose the EU legal framework as much as possible. However, much must be done to make the changes understandable for government agencies, farmers, food producers and other stakeholders. National strategic documents cover all the thematic areas relevant to Farm to Fork (F2F) subtopics, even though some specific issues are missing.

The objectives across sectors are coherent and support one another, which reflects a shared Government vision for development, including in F2F. Nevertheless, more specific correlation and SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timebound) objectives and indicators are missing. Some might appear in further documents that are currently under development. Currently, the objectives are very general, do not refer to any values, or characterise more operational outputs (what will be done) rather than the desired outcome and impact. This lack of specific coherence and coordination translates into weak coordination at the implementation level, including a lack of a coherent strategic plan with clear responsibilities and progress monitoring.

The Moldovan Government and main Ministries responsible for different aspects of F2F (agriculture and food, environment and health) are currently transposing dozens of EU policy and regulation documents. Despite substantial effort, state capacity is limited, and such a focus on EU accession is to some extent detrimental to the usual work of central public authorities. In practice, there is a lack of time to pay attention to the citizens' needs and problems that do not refer to EU accession. In this regard, there is also insufficient human capacity at the government level to communicate with simple citizens on specific benefits of EU accession to concrete citizen problems (within F2F, for instance, how this strategy will help simple people in the village have a better environment and improve their economic situation).

An action plan and monitoring framework for F2F, coordinated with the government and ministries, is missing. Such a framework with specific coordination points would help reduce bureaucratic burdens and strengthen synergy between sectors while also helping achieve the desired outcome more efficiently and with fewer costs. Monitoring and evaluation could be based on this common F2F framework and provide the basis for better environmental and agricultural governance. CSOs conduct many projects on green, climate-smart agriculture, farmers' associations and sometimes local public authorities. However, impact measurement in these projects is not synchronised with the government and ministerial objectives, creating an image distortion and uncertainty about the actual situation.



The National Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy and the National Environmental Strategy demonstrate the state's high ambition and aspiration to mainstream sustainable and environmental issues in all economic sectors.

Some of the significant challenges in terms of the implementation of the F2F strategy in Moldova are:

- There is insufficient communication, coordination, and synchronisation/synergy between sectoral strategies to achieve the relevant F2F goals.
- Insufficient allocation of the financial and human resources to ensure the efficient implementation of the transposed regulations related to F2F.
- Lack of more gender specific issues relevant to food systems, and more nutrition-specific goals in strategic documents. That also applies to some sector-specific international agreements that have been honoured, but not always explicitly, lacking specific links and targets.
- The current strategic objectives and targets align with the EU Farm to Fork strategy. More specific targets are needed to promote sustainable food consumption and facilitate the shift to healthy, sustainable diets, reduce pesticide and fertiliser usage, reduce food waste, tackle AMR, enable transition, especially regarding financing and a sustainable transition model, and promote the global transition.
- In a rush to transpose EU acquis, sometimes little time is given for proper analysis and consultation processes with a wide range of other stakeholder groups.
- There is a lack of or limited data relevant for F2F, such as statistics of agriculture-related GHG, food systems GHG, water quality in terms of nitrate and pesticide pollution, quantity of farmed fish sourced sustainably, food loss and waste and sex-disaggregated data on women's employment at different levels of the food value chain.

Our preliminary findings show encouraging progress in addressing regulatory gaps. Harmonising national legislation with the European Acquis is a priority for Moldova, and significant progress has been made in the last few years. However, more work must be done to synchronise the Moldovan regulatory framework with the relevant EU Farm to Fork strategy. In addition to existing economic instruments, other instruments, such as better communication, improved dissemination, and voluntary standards and norms, are either missing or insufficiently developed.

Financing is more oriented towards the activities and not the outcome and impact linked to farmers' progress in sustainable farming. There are no indicators to measure the positive effects of organic agriculture and its economic contribution. The same applies to other positive externalities related to the protection of the environment and human health, which are not at all estimated in monetary value and therefore, not



reflected in budget expenditures, especially in the activity of the Ministry of Environment.

The relevant institutions are mainly in place, but further capacity development and integration into the EU F2F regulatory system are needed. The reforms over the last few years demonstrate that a continuous process of reform and updates is needed on the roles and responsibilities in the agri-food area and the institutions set up, clearly from the implementation perspective of the EU Farm to Fork strategy.

Most relevant institutions have been given a clear mandate to reach the F2F related goals, but a mandate is insufficient. Additional financial and human resources are needed to ensure delivery. Staff capacity and specific skills across the thematic area are inadequate to ensure all key goals and objectives of the F2F are met. These issues are, however, on the government's radar. The National Bureau of Statistics has a transparent data collection, monitoring and reporting system. However, it has not yet been adjusted to ensure the collection of all the specific relevant F2F data and information. Moreover, there is insufficient consolidation of individually and ad-hoc collected data (by different institutions) and monitoring and reporting.

There is also a lack of or insufficient stakeholder engagement and communication, setting a roadmap with well-planned activities, reporting and a communication schedule.

While organic agriculture research and sustainable and climate-friendly food systems research in Moldova are nascent, there is still no specifically dedicated study program for organic agriculture or food systems in specialised universities. To achieve a green transition, they need to be permanently included in the curricula of research and academic institutions.

As one of the key challenges in terms of capacity is financing, the involvement of the Ministry of Finance is essential at the stage where the state budget is formulated. There is a need to ensure positive externalities (e.g., reducing GHG emissions, reducing fertilisers/pesticides and AMR, improved soil fertility, better human health, etc) are integrated into financing arrangements so that farmers and other food system actors are financially rewarded for their efforts in contributing towards the green transition.

Moldova has some good mechanisms/financial schemes to promote the alignment of finance across related sectors to policy coherence objectives and to track associated expenses for the green transition and the EU Farm to Fork area. It's crucial to ensure sufficient funds and capitalise on them in the future, maximising these schemes' synergy during planning and implementation. This includes distributing roles/functions and funds according to the attributed functions and objectives to complement each other, ensuring sustainable, fair, and resilient food systems.



## Moldova

---

A Just Transition is a concept that is little understood in Moldova's food and agricultural system. This process of transition and transformation of food production and consumption is very complex. Transitional support will need to be involved in terms of financial and human resources for the agri-food actors most impacted by the transition.



Table 7. Summary of main enabling conditions, gaps and needs

Main elements	Enabling conditions	Key gaps	Needs
<b>EU Strategic framework and Acquis (policy and legal readiness)</b>	<p>National strategic documents cover all the thematic areas relevant to the Farm to Fork subtopics.</p> <p>The main related sector-specific international agreements have been honoured; however, they often don't explicitly address key targets and indicators in line with the F2F strategy.</p> <p>The Government, especially MAFI and the Ministry of Environment, has made substantial efforts to transpose the EU legal framework as much as possible.</p>	<p>Transformation of agriculture and food systems requires strong coherence of cross-cutting objectives in strategic policy documents in agriculture, environment, health, social protection and economy domains. Although overall the objectives are coherent, more clarity is needed on whether and how agriculture and food policy will be assessed as related to nutrition, environment and gender dimensions, as well as how will the measures under the objectives in these three areas financed considering their positive contribution to the objectives in the strategic documents in the competence of MAFI.</p> <p>Key gaps: lack of specific correlated targets and indicators (also parameters) for</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) environment,</li> <li>2) nutrition and health,</li> <li>3) gender-related sub-dimensions of agriculture and food,</li> <li>4) lack of metrics demonstrating the environmental and health costs of conventional agriculture to the national economy,</li> </ol> <p>including for the transposed international agreements, namely for F2F more specific targets are needed for the P.2.4 Promoting sustainable food consumption and facilitating the shift to healthy, sustainable diets; P.3</p>	<p>Specific targets and indicators need to be established and correlated for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environment (e.g., agriculture related GHG, renewable freshwater resources, reuse and recycling of freshwater, drinking water quality, proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality, change in water-use efficiency over time, concentration of ammonium in rivers, nutrients in freshwater, area affected by soil erosion, fertilizer consumption, pesticide consumption, energy intensity, environment protection expenditure, volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size, average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status, number of (a) plant and (b) animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities, proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction, proportion of habitats for Wild Crop Relatives preserved),*Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture needs to be increased from target of 10% to 25% as in EU F2F Strategy.</li> <li>2. Nutrition and health (e.g., prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity</li> </ol>

		Enabling transition, especially regarding financing and sustainable transition model, as well as P.4 Promoting the global transition.	<p>Experience Scale (FIES), prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage))</p> <p>3. Gender (e.g., proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location, (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure)</p> <p>4. The need to include metrics on health expenditures linked to poor nutrition in economic development metrics (for instance, as part of the Human Development Index).</p>
<b>Instruments for policy implementation (implementation readiness)</b>	<p>Moldova prioritises harmonising national legislation with the European Acquis. Despite regulations covering key policy and legal areas of EGD, the norms of European legislation are not fully transposed to the Moldovan ones.</p> <p>The economic instruments are in place, good progress is registered, and further efforts are required to improve the administration and allocation efficiency.</p>	<p>1. Significant progress was made in the last years, and part of the key policy and legal areas are covered with appropriate regulatory and economic instruments</p> <p>2. Economic instruments should have sufficient financial and human resources for maximum efficiency.</p> <p>3. To achieve real, measurable environmental improvements, it is essential to ensure the implementation of the regulatory and economic instruments.</p>	<p>1. More effort needs to be invested in synchronising the Moldovan regulatory framework with the relevant EU Farm to Fork strategy</p> <p>2. A key priority must be attracting financial and human resources to implement the F2F goals.</p> <p>3. Ensure the implementation of the regulatory and economic instruments. There is a need for an independent evaluation by the Court of Auditors of the effectiveness of the economic instruments concerning the implementation of the established goals. Also, no indicators evaluate the environmental impact of</p>

		<p>4. Other instruments need to be added and promoted; better communication/information instruments, voluntary standards/norms</p> <p>5. There are no indicators to measure the positive impact of organic agriculture and its economic contribution.</p> <p>6. Moldova is beginning to implement the regulatory and economic instruments.</p> <p>7. Funding is more oriented towards activities than the outcomes and impacts linked to the real progress farmers achieve.</p> <p>8. The preliminary findings show encouraging progress; action is necessary for efficient and quick results.</p>	<p>agricultural measures (e.g., ecosystem services) holistically.</p> <p>4. Complementary instruments to be added (communication/information instruments, voluntary standards/norms)</p> <p>5. Put in place the instruments to measure the impact of organic agriculture</p> <p>6. Transfer of the mechanisms from the EU to Moldova</p> <p>7. More funding is required that relates to on-farm impacts and in particular around those measures that would achieve F2F goals -e.g., increase in area under organic agriculture, pesticide/fertiliser use reductions, etc</p> <p>8. As soon as possible, put into practice the practical implementation plan addressing identified needs.</p>
<b>Financial capacity (implementation/financial readiness)</b>	<p>The main financiers of the agro-industrial sector are agricultural producers as investors, the State through AIPA, ODA, IFAD Implementing Units, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, ADMA (Agency for Agricultural Development and Modernization, and development partners), the European Union, United Nations Program (UNDP),</p>	<p>1. Current funding is insufficient to meet F2F targets, and the financial instruments should be diversified/adjusted similarly to those in EU countries.</p> <p>2. Funding is more oriented towards activities than the outcomes and impacts linked to the actual progress farmers achieve. Therefore,</p>	<p>1. The agri-food sector's potential has not been fully realised, and more finance and funding are needed to develop high-value-added sectors such as processing, animal husbandry, and the implementation of sustainable practices, considering the green transition.</p> <p>2. A step-by-step approach is required to adjust the funding in support of organic agriculture</p>

	USA through USAID, Governments of Japan, Sweden, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Denmark, Netherlands, FAO, and other foreign investors.	current financial instruments may not be realistic at all.  3. The funding for the Farm to Fork goals is important to the national government as it envisages large areas related to sustainable production, food safety, food security, nutrition, health, environment, etc.	and to reduce the reliance on agricultural inputs  3. Delegate an entity responsible for the overall coordination and monitoring of the F2F goals implementation and financing.
<b>Public capacity (institutional capacity - effectiveness and efficiency - implementation readiness)</b>	With the assistance of the EU, most of the assessed stakeholders developed the necessary regulatory capacity to implement required reforms in the agri-food system. Still, continuous insufficiency of financial and human resources is a serious barrier to implementing EGD, Farm to Fork monitoring, and reporting practices as necessary. Many of these institutions also lack experience in properly coordinating cross-sectoral related activities, capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, and communications activities.	1. All leading ministries and competent authorities responsible for managing Moldova's Farm to Fork area are actively involved in long-term planning. Still, as this is a relatively new topic, they all need additional support to ensure continuity and efficiency in implementing EGD and Farm to Fork policies.  2. All relevant, analysed key authorities have the necessary legal and administrative powers to enforce and implement EU Farm to Fork policies according to the current attributed functions. In time, these may need adjustment to ensure the efficient implementation of EGD and Farm to Fork policies.  3. The volume of allocated resources (financial and human) is increasing year by year. However, these will be insufficient to ensure all institutions have the capacity to effectively and efficiently implement Farm to Fork priorities.  4. Promoting the green economy is a cross-cutting area, and effective collaboration	1. Additional support to leading ministries to ensure continuity and efficiency in implementing EGD, farm to fork policies.  2. Make necessary adjustments to ensure the efficient implementation of EGD and farm policies  3. Identify and attract sufficient financial and human resources to ensure efficient implementation of the F2F priorities  4. Strengthen the interministerial coordination and implementation of the F2F priorities.  5. Enforcement of the MAFI and ANSA capabilities as well as of other ministries and committees are also substantial and further capacity will also be required to ensure compliance and enforcement.



	<p>between the institutions involved, at national and local levels, is crucial to achieve the given objectives. Effective implementation requires multiple government agencies to work together. The Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation seems to have the role and mechanisms for coordination and collaboration.</p> <p>5. Each Ministry and competent authority for enforcing compliance with Farm to Fork policies and regulations complements each other according to the attributed competences. The MAFI and ANSA have the largest part to play and seem capable of enforcing compliance with Green Deal policies and regulations. However, these are insufficient for the moment. Furthermore, the enforcement capabilities of other ministries and committees are also substantial, and further capacity will be required to ensure compliance and enforcement.</p> <p>6. The National Bureau of Statistics can collect statistical data across all sectors, including the relevant Farm to Fork statistical data. At the same time, all ministries and related agencies which have the responsibility for delivering farm to fork goals, do collect, manage, and disseminate data and information whilst monitoring and reporting on progress towards farm to fork goals individually. There's no coordinating institution tracking unified data from all related sectors.</p>	<p>6. Delegate the institution to collect and process the information related to implementing the F2F priorities.</p> <p>7. As the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation seems to have the role and the mechanisms in place for coordination and collaboration, it needs to put more efforts and make it more efficient</p> <p>8. Elaboration of the road map with well-planned activities, reporting and communication timelines</p>
--	--	---

		<p>7. The Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation seems to have the role and mechanisms for coordination and collaboration.</p> <p>8. Stakeholder engagement and communication activities are in place but can be improved and should be improved by setting a road map with well-planned activities, reporting, and a communication schedule.</p>	
<b>Non-governmental capacity (implementation readiness)</b>	<p>Some skilled workers, including those from academia and CSOS, can support the green transition. Nevertheless, no clear political commitment (plans and measures) has been identified to integrate the goal of such skills in higher education or vocational training.</p> <p>The agriculture sector is aware of the need for a green transition (especially agronomy academia), but not of the changes it needs to make. Farmers, as a rule, lack the knowledge and skills to make this transition.</p> <p>Academia in the agriculture sector is currently more dedicated to phytosanitary products that can be used in organic agriculture than to</p>	<p>1. Objectives and indicators related to capacity building for green transition regarding research and lab equipment.</p> <p>2. There is no link objective-indicator-capacity in relation to technical assistance for green transition related to each sub-area and stage of food value chain (e.g., organic seed production, high education programs in organic agriculture, study programs and research for food systems assessing nutritional value of food, diversified food, study programs and developed research in area of agroecological approach to landscape and agroecosystem management, study program and research in ecological economics, nutrition health etc.)</p> <p>3. There is no link between objective-indicator-capacity in terms of budget dedicated to investment in education and research for green transition (including the link between</p>	<p>1. Specific measures and indicators related to infrastructure for research and education are needed for green transition and F2F elaboration and implementation.</p> <p>2. A possible link between objective, indicator, and capacity could be reflected in, for example, the following:</p> <p>3. The indicator % of agricultural land areas registered in organic farming (at least 10% by 2030) would need to be accompanied by program indicators for capacity development regarding research directions and achievements to ensure that farmers have the necessary technical su Return on Investment</p> <p>n education for green transition and how it will save money for the state. For that, research needs to be done on how much the state conventional model of food production currently costs: polluted water, poor</p>



## Moldova

<p>integrating permaculture and more nature-based approaches.</p> <p>There is also a lack of awareness of the positive economic impact of organics and agroecological approaches.</p> <p>There is a need for strong collaboration and synergy between all stakeholders, including CSOs.</p> <p>Although there is an abundance of financial support for green transition, the non-government sector lacks strategic planning and economic sustainability, making it vulnerable.</p> <p>Regarding mandate, research and academia are the perfect actors to support the green transition and respective policy making. Nevertheless, the government must commit to investing in respective research and innovation.</p>	<p>investment in research and existing faculties and study programs).</p>	<p>agriculture management, and market price volatility on agrochemicals, farms' vulnerability to droughts (resulting in state support to affected farms), poor food diversity, human vulnerability to NCDs, etc.</p>
--	---	--





## References

Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 600 dated June 27, 2018 “on the organization and operation of the National Food Safety Agency”, (2018).

Moldova Government [online]. Available at:

[https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=119159&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=119159&lang=ro)

Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.775 dated November 9, 2022 “On approval of the National Strategy for Food Security in the Republic of Moldova for 2023-2030”, (2022). Moldova Government [online]. Available at:

[https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=135003&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=135003&lang=ro)

Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.56 dated February 17, 2023 “On approval of the National Strategy of Agricultural and Rural Development for 2023-2030”, (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at:

[https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=136318&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136318&lang=ro)

Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 203 dated April 12, 2023 on the approval of the Program promoting and ensuring equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2023-2027. Moldova Government [online]. Available at:

[https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=137409&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=137409&lang=ro)

Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 387 dated June 14, 2023 on the approval of the National Health Strategy "Health 2030". Moldova Government [online]. Available at:

[https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=138493&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=138493&lang=ro)

Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 434 date June 28, 2023 on the approval of the Program on active and healthy aging for the years 2023-2027, (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at:

[https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=138059&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=138059&lang=ro)

Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 464 dated May 7, 2023 regarding the approval of the Regulation on complementary subsidy measures and the specific conditions of eligibility for complementary subsidies from the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and the Rural Environment and the repeal of Government Decision no. 455/2017 regarding the distribution of the means of the National Fund for the Development of Agriculture and the Rural Environment.,(2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at:

[https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=138016&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=138016&lang=ro)



Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 791 dated October 18, 2023 " Regarding the National Center Public Institution of Research and Seed

Production and to modification of some decisions of the Government", (2023).

Moldova Government [online]. Available at:

[https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=139799&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=139799&lang=ro)

Decision by the Government of the Republic of Moldova No. 829 dated October 27, 2023 "regarding the approval of the National Action Plan for the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union for the years 2024-2027", (2023). Moldova Government [online]. Available at:

[https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=139891&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=139891&lang=ro)

Decree by the President of the Republic of Moldova No.741 dated December 19, 2022 on the promulgation of the Law for the approval of the Strategy national development "Moldova European 2030, (2022). Moldova President [online]. Available at:

[https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc\\_id=134581&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134581&lang=ro)

Eurofood bank (2022) *Banca de Alimente Moldova launches national campaign "Less waste, more good"*. Available at: <https://www.eurofoodbank.org/banca-de-alimente-moldova-launches-national-campaign-less-waste-more-good/> (Accessed: 28 January 2024)

European Commission. (2023). *Commission Analytical report on Moldova's alignment with the EU acquis*. Available at: [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/commission-analytical-report-moldovas-alignment-eu-acquis\\_en](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/commission-analytical-report-moldovas-alignment-eu-acquis_en) (Accessed: 10 February 2024)

European Environment Agency (2020). *C11 – Nutrients in freshwaters of the Republic of Moldova*. Available at: <https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east/indicators/c112013-nutrients-in-freshwaters-of-the-republic-of-moldova> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

FAO (2019) *Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles, Moldova*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/facp/mda?lang=en> (Accessed: 22 December 2023)

FAO. (2020). *Smallholders and family farms in the Republic of Moldova. Country study report 2019*. Budapest. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9836en>

FAO. (2022). *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0639en/cc0639en.pdf> (Accessed: 22 December 2023)

FAO (2024)<sup>1</sup>. *Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles. Moldova, Republic of, 2019. Country Profile Fact Sheets. In: Fisheries and Aquaculture*. Rome. Updated Jan 21, 2013. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/facp/mda?lang=en> (Accessed: 23 December 2023).



FAO (2024)<sup>2</sup>. *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/en/> (Accessed: 15 January 2024)

FAO (2024)<sup>3</sup>. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/news-archive/news-detail/en/c/266259/> (Accessed: 16 January 2024)

Food, Farming and Countryside Commission (2020). *Farming Smarter: the case for agroecological enterprise*. Available at: <https://ffcc.co.uk/publications/farming-smarter-report> (Accessed: 21 December 2023)

Gherciu, V., Rundgren, G. (2017). "The Status and Potential of Organic Agriculture in the Republic of Moldova", *UN Environment Programme*. Available at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22962/The%20Status%20and%20Potential%20of%20Organic%20Agriculture%20in%20the%20Republic%20of%20Moldova.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

Global Nutrition Report (2022) *Moldova Country Nutrition Profile*. Available at: <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/europe/eastern-europe/republic-moldova/> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

Government of the Republic of Moldova (2022) *Information provided by the Government of the Republic of Moldova to the Questionnaire of the European Commission CHAPTER 13: FISHERIES*. Available at: [https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/chapter\\_13\\_fisheries.pdf](https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/chapter_13_fisheries.pdf) (Accessed: 22 December 2023)

ILO (2021). *A synergy of growth and employment opportunities: A market systems analysis of the berry sector in the Republic of Moldova*. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/budapest/what-we-do/publications/WCMS\\_789901/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/budapest/what-we-do/publications/WCMS_789901/lang-en/index.htm)

Institute of Chemistry (2021). *The Republic of Moldova Informative Inventory Report 2021*. Available at: [https://webdab01.umweltbundesamt.at/download/submissions2021/MD\\_IIR2021.zip?cgiproxy\\_skip=1](https://webdab01.umweltbundesamt.at/download/submissions2021/MD_IIR2021.zip?cgiproxy_skip=1) (Accessed: 24 December 2023)

Law, M. (2017). *Reducing the Organic Stigma*. Available at: <https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/sites/default/files/pdf/Law%20-%20Reducing%20the%20Organic%20Stigma.pdf> (Accessed: 10 March 2024)

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (2023). *National program for the development of the agri-food sector and rural areas for the period 2023-2026 [in elaboration]*. Available at: [https://particip.gov.md/ru/download\\_attachment/19578](https://particip.gov.md/ru/download_attachment/19578) Accee (Accessed: 16 April 2024)



Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation. Acordul de Liber Schimb cu Uniunea Europeana, AA/DCFTA in Moldova. Available at: <https://dcfta.md/sistemul-de-coordonare> (Accessed: 25 January 2024)

Ministry of Environment (2023). *The Environmental Strategy for 2023-2030 [in elaboration]*. Available at: <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/anuntprivind-organizarea-consultarii-publice-a-proiectului-hotararii-de-guvern-pentru-aprobarea-strategiei-de-mediu-pentru-anii-2023-2030/11309> (Accessed: 10 April 2024)

Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (2022). *The national REPORT on implementing the International Pact regarding economic, social and cultural rights*. Available at: <https://social.gov.md/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Raport-Pactul-international-privind-drepturile-economice-sociale-si-culturale-2022c.pdf> (Accessed: 16 January 2024)

Moldova Ministry of Health (2019). *Guide to Good Practice: rational nutrition, food safety and changing nutrition behaviours*. Available at: [https://library.usmf.md/sites/default/files/2019-06/ghid\\_nutritie\\_romana\\_CIP\\_electronic.pdf](https://library.usmf.md/sites/default/files/2019-06/ghid_nutritie_romana_CIP_electronic.pdf) (Accessed: 21 December 2023)

Moldova National Inventory Report 1990-2020: <https://unfccc.int/documents/627101>

National Action Plan on Family Farms in the Republic of Moldova/FAO 2023 under development

National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *Agriculture*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/16\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/16_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 20 December 2023)

National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *National Accounts*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/13\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/13_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 22 December 2023)

National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *International Statistics*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/23\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/23_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 22 December 2023)

National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *International Trade in Goods*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/20\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/20_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

National Bureau of Statistics (2023). *Labour Force*. Available at: [https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii\\_electronice/Anuar\\_Statistic/2023/3\\_AS.pdf](https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/publicatii_electronice/Anuar_Statistic/2023/3_AS.pdf) (Accessed: 19 December, 2023)



OECD (2020). *Promoting Exports and Supply-Chain Linkages in the Food Industry in the Republic of Moldova*. Available at: <https://www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/eastern-partners/Promoting-Exports-and-Supply-Chain-Linkages-in-the-Food-Industry-in-the-Republic-of-Moldova-ENG.pdf> (Accessed: 20 December, 2023)

State Chancellery (2023) *Regarding the approval of the Sustainable Chemicals Management Program for the years 2023-2030, the Action Plan for its implementation for the years 2023-2030 and the Implementation Plan of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for years 2023-2030 (unique number 510/MM/2023)*. Available at: <https://cancelaria.gov.md/ro/content/cu-privire-la-aprobarea-programului-de-management-durabil-al-substantelor-chimice-pentru>

State Chancellery (2023). The Government's decision regarding the approval of the draft law to amend Law 68/2013 on seeds. Available at: <https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/nu-1143-maia-2023.pdf>

UN (1989). Convention on the Rights of the Child. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child> (Accessed: 15 January 2024)

UN (2024). *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> (Accessed: 3 April 2024)

WFP (2022). *Moldova Annual Country Report 2022*. Available at: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000147972/download/> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

World Bank (2013). *Moldova Public Expenditure Review : Capital Expenditures - Making Public Investment Work for Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth in Moldova*. © Washington, DC. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/16766> License: [CC BY 3.0 IGO](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

World Bank; CIAT (2016). *Climate-Smart Agriculture Country Profile*. Available at: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/CSA%20Moldova.pdf> (Accessed: 21 December 2023)

World Bank (2019). *Climate Smart Agriculture in Moldova*. Available at: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/CSA%20Moldova.pdf> (Accessed: 23 December 2023)

## Annexes

### Annex 1. Mapping the strategic national documents, as well as relevant thematic objectives and targets

Relevant international or EGD policy area/ strategic document	Existing national strategic document	Time of adoption and date of last revision	Legally binding or not	Relevant objectives and targets	Comments
1. Association Agreement between Moldova and the EU  2. UN Agenda 2030	National Development Strategy (NDS) "European Moldova 2030"	17.11.2022	Yes	GOs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10  SOs 4.2, 5.2, 8.2, 10.1-10.4	Very comprehensive and people-centred development strategy
1. Chapter 12 – Agriculture and Rural Development of the Association Agreement  2. EU Common Agricultural Policy	National Strategy for agriculture and rural development for 2023-2030 (NSARD)	17.02.2023	Yes	GOs 1-4	One of the GOs' directions is "ensuring a fair, healthy and ecological food system based on the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy. The values suggested in the indicators are not very ambitious, e.g., achieving organic farming only for 10% of the land or increasing the share of local crop varieties by 10%.  The explicit integration of biodiversity issues in agriculture is very positive.



## Moldova

NSARD	The food security strategy of the Republic of Moldova for the years 2023-2030 (FSS)	09.11.2022	Yes	GOs 1, 3-5	
1. NSARD 2. FSS 2023-2030 3. EU CAP 4. EU "Farm to Fork" Strategy 5. EU Biodiversity Strategy	National program for the development of the agri-food sector and rural areas for the period 2023-2026	14.07.2023 public consultation	Yes	Correspond to NSARD	
1. UN Agenda 2030 2. EU Green Deal 3. Paris Agreement 4. Glasgow Climate Pact 5. The 8th European Action Plan for the Environment	Environmental Strategy 2023-2030	31.10.2023 public consultation	Yes	GOs 2, 4, 5, 7, 8	Overall, a very comprehensive strategy, including for agriculture and health, involving respective ministries
NDS 2030	National Health Strategy "Health 2030"	14.06.2023	Yes	GOs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3	It includes the One Health approach and nutrition, but it is very vague.





## Moldova

1. Chapter V. Priority sectoral policies, LABOR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION section	The program to promote and ensure equality between women and men in the Republic of Moldova for the years 2023-2027	12.04.2023	Yes	GOs 1, 3, 5	Overall, it is very positive. However, it very vaguely includes specific aspects concerning women in agriculture, which are specified in the FAO report for Moldova on gender assessment <sup>11</sup> , including the role of women in work with seeds, food processing, and nutrition.
2. Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023					
3. The European Union strategy on gender equality for the years 2020-2025					
4. UN Women's Strategic Plan for the years 2022-2025					
5. NDS 2030					
6. UN Agenda 2030					
7. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)					
1. Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	Program on active and healthy ageing for 2023-2027	28.06.2023	Yes	GOs 1, 3, 5	Agriculture and silviculture are the main areas of occupation for people over 60



## Moldova

2. UN Agenda 2030					
3. United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)					
4. European Parliament resolution of 7 July 2021 on an old continent growing older					
5. NDS 2030					
EU acquis	The National Action Plan for the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union for the years 2024-2027	9.01.2024  The end of the public consultation of the updated plan	Yes	Chapters 11- 13, 19, 27, 28	The public consultation was launched on 27 December during the holiday period and ended on 9 January.

## Annex 2. EU approximation assessment template

The table below outlines the most relevant pieces of Moldovan legislation and associated regulations and directives that apply across the Farm to Fork system within the EU, including the initial pre-selected regulations provided by the experts.

Relevant EU legal document (only key directives and regulations relevant for the thematic area)	Existing national law	Planned national law (including drafted, but not adopted)	Status of transposition (fully, partially, not transposed)	Further steps in transposition	Competent authority	Comments: issues/difficulties that can create problems for further transposition
Name of the directive	Name and date of adoption	Name and planned date of adoption				
<b>Agriculture/fisheries</b>						
Common Agriculture Policy Strategic Plan 23-27	17.02.2023, the Government of Moldova approved the National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development		Partially	The National Strategy is yet to transpose the green aspect of CAP Strategic Plan.	Government, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry	
Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the common fisheries policy	The fishery could be realized only in internal fresh waters and is regulated by the Law on Fish Fund, Fishery and Fish Breeding no. 149/2006, which regulates the	N/A	Not transposed		Government, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry,  National Food Safety Agency	The Republic of Moldova is an inland country and has no fisheries fleet, and the sea and ocean fishery

## Moldova

	industrial, amateur, and scientific fishery.					
Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 <sup>107</sup>	<p>21.12.2022</p> <p>21.12.2022 Law on organic production and labelling of organic products</p> <p>LP237/2023 on organic production and labelling of organic products</p> <p>Law on organic production and labelling of organic products</p>	N/A	Partially	N/A	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry	The Government committed
Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1189	830/MAIA/2023	First draft not approved by the Government. Work restarted.	Partially	Improvement of the draft	MAFI	Not coordinated with the Law on Seeds LP68/2013
The Action plan for development of Organic Production:	<p>19.09.2019</p> <p>Law No 129/2019 on animal by-products and derived products</p>	N/A	Partially	N/A	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry	

<sup>107</sup> The full package of relevant secondary legislation acts can be found in the Annexe 2.1

## Moldova

REGULATION (EC) No 1069/2009 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (Animal by-products Regulation)	that are not intended for human consumption				National Food Safety Agency	
<b>Water quality</b>						
Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources	23.12.2011  Water Law  There is no separate law that regulates pollutants from agricultural sources.	N/A	Partially	N/A	Partially	
Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy	The Water Code	N/A	Not transposed	N/A		

Pesticides						
DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides	Law No. 119/2004 on plant protection products and fertilisers	N/A	Partially	N/A	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry  National Food Safety Agency	
Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC			Partially			
Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115'	Government Decision No. 42/2020 for the approval of the Requirements for the sustainable use of plant protection products.		Partially			
Food safety and food fraud						
Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the	The Food Safety Law 306/2018	N/A	Partially	N/A	Ministry of Agriculture	

## Moldova

general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety					and Food Industry  National Food Safety Agency	
Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin	LP296/2017	New provisions entering into force on 22.04.2024	Transposed	Implementation rules	ANSA	The new provision opens the door to small-scale artisanal food producers
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 on food fraud	No regulations regarding food fraud (no mentions in related documents).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No regulations regarding food fraud
<b>Food labelling</b>						
Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers	Law No. 279/2017 on consumer information on foodstuffs	N/A	Partially	N/A	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry  National Food Safety Agency	



## Moldova

Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 on novel foods	Government Decision No. 925/2009 approving the Sanitary Regulation on novel foods	N/A	Partially	N/A		
Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs	No direct transposition but a similar one LP66/2008 on the protection of geographical indications, names of origin and traditional specialities guaranteed	Planned. Is part of the recent package.	No	N/A	MAFI	Parliament's decision to transpose <sup>108</sup>
Regulation (EC) 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims [4]				N/A		
Proposal for a Directive on substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims (Green Claims Directive)[5]	No corresponding law in Moldova.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

<sup>108</sup> CORAPERT for the draft Law on official controls in the agri-food sector (no. 388 of 01.11.2023)

## Moldova

EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices[6]		N/A	Not transposed	N/A		
<b>Animal welfare</b>						
Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/6)	Usage of veterinary medical products is regulated by the law "On veterinary medicine".	N/A	Not transposed	N/A		
Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes	Government Decision No 1275/2008 on the approval of the sanitary-veterinary norm on the protection of farm animals		Partially	Transportation of animals		
Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs	Government Decision No 859/2008 on the approval of the sanitary-veterinary norm regarding the minimum criteria for the protection of pigs intended for rearing and fattening	N/A	Partially	N/A		
Council Directive 2008/119/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum	Government Decision No 1325/2008 on the approval of the sanitary-veterinary	N/A	Partially	N/A		

## Moldova

standards for the protection of calves	norm regarding the establishing minimum requirements for the protection of calves for the purpose of rearing and fattening					
<b>Food security</b>						
<p>COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS</p> <p>Contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security in times of crisis</p>	<p>09.01.2023</p> <p>Moldova's Food Security Strategy for 2023-2030</p>	Currently, there is no law to ensure food security in times of peace.	Not transposed			
<b>General sustainability</b>						
Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937				Further legislation may contribute to the transposition of EU norms.		

## Moldova

ANNEX to the proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937				Further legislation may contribute to the transposition of EU norms.		
Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment	LP86/2014 regarding environmental impact assessment.	Normative and methodological framework approved.	Transposed	Implementing the regulation needs to be updated.	Ministry of Environment	Guidance for implementation is planned for January 2024
<b>Food waste</b>						
Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	The specific procedure regarding the implementation and monitoring of the National Waste Plan for live animals and products of animal origin, available in Romanian at the ANSA site		Partially			
Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018	29.07.2016  Waste Management Law 209		Partially			



Moldova

amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste						
---	--	--	--	--	--	--



## Annex 2.1 SECONDARY LEGISLATION ACTS ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION implementing Law LP237/2023 on organic production and labelling of organic products

No	National act	EU acts transposed
GD 1	Draft of Government Decision laying down detailed rules on organic production, retroactive recognition of periods for conversion, products and substances authorized for use in organic production	<p><b>Annexe 1 – Regulation laying down detailed rules on organic production, collection, packaging, transport and storage of organic products.</b> Transpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Art. 3, annexes II and III of the Regulation (EU) 2018/848</i> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 150, 14.6.2018, as last amended by Commission delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/207 of 24 November 2022.</li> <li>• <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/2146</i> of 24 September 2020 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards exceptional production rules in organic production.</li> <li>• <i>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165</i> of 15 July 2021 authorises certain products and substances for use in organic production and establishes their lists.</li> </ul> <p><b>Annexe 2 – Regulation laying down rules on retroactive recognition of periods for conversion, and the production of organic products.</b> Transpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464</i> of 26 March 2020 laying down specific rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the documents needed for the retroactive recognition of periods for conversion, the production of organic products and information to be provided by Member States.</li> </ul>
GD 2	Draft of Government Decision for approval of the Regulation as regards the production and marketing of plant reproductive material of organic heterogeneous material of particular genera or species	<p>Transpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1189</i> of 7 May 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the production and marketing of plant reproductive material of organic heterogeneous material of particular genera or species.</li> </ul>
GD 3	Draft of Government Decision regarding the organisation of the control and certification system, the recognition of control bodies	<p><b>Annexe 1 – Regulation laying down rules on the recognition of control bodies and the supervision of their activity.</b> Transpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1698</i> of 13 July 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council with procedural requirements for the recognition of control</li> </ul>



	<p><b>and the supervision of their activities in organic farming</b></p>	<p>authorities and control bodies that are competent to carry out controls on operators and groups of operators certified organic and on organic products in third countries and with rules on their supervision and the controls and other actions to be performed by those control authorities and control bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1697</i> of 13 July 2021 amending Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding the criteria for the recognition of control authorities and control bodies that are competent to carry out controls on organic products in third countries and for the withdrawal of their recognition.</li> <li>• <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1342</i> of 27 May 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council with rules on the information to be sent by third countries and by control authorities and control bodies for supervision of their recognition under Article 33(2) and (3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 for imported organic products and the measures to be taken in the exercise of that supervision.</li> <li>• <i>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1935</i> of 8 November 2021 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/723 as regards the information and data on organic production and labelling of organic products to be submitted using the standard model form.</li> <li>• <i>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1195</i> of 20 June 2023 laying down rules for the details and the format of the information to be made available by Member States on the results of official investigations concerning contamination cases with products or substances not authorised for use in organic production.</li> </ul> <p><b>Annexe 2: Regulation laying down the rules on controls and other measures to ensure traceability and compliance in organic production and the labelling of organic products.</b> Transpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/279</i> of 22 February 2021 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council on controls and other measures ensuring traceability and compliance in organic production and the labelling of organic products.</li> <li>• <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/771</i> of 21 January 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council by laying down specific criteria and conditions for the checks of documentary accounts in the framework of official controls in organic production and the official controls of groups of operators.</li> <li>• <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2304</i> of 18 October 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/848</li> </ul>
--	--	--





		<p>of the European Parliament and of the Council with rules on the issuance of complementary certificates certifying the non-use of antibiotics in organic production of animal products for the purpose of export.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1378</i> of 19 August 2021 laying down certain rules concerning the certificate issued to operators, groups of operators and exporters in third countries involved in the imports of organic and in-conversion products into the Union and establishing the list of recognised control authorities and control bodies in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council.</li> <li>• <i>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2119</i> of 1 December 2021 laying down detailed rules on certain records and declarations required from operators and groups of operators and on the technical means for the issuance of certificates in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1378 as regards the issuance of the certificate for operators, groups of operators and exporters in third countries.</li> <li>• <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/715</i> of 20 January 2021 amending Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the requirements for groups of operators.</li> <li>• <i>Annex IV of the Regulation (EU) 2018/848</i> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 150, 14.6.2018, as last amended by Commission delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/207 of 24 November 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>GD 4</b>	<b>Draft of Government Decision for the approval of the Regulation as regards the import and export of organic products</b>	<p>Transpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2305</i> of 21 October 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council with rules on the cases where and conditions under which organic products and in-conversion products are exempted from official controls at border control posts, the place of official controls for such products and amending Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2019/2123 and (EU) 2019/2124.</li> <li>• <i>Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2306</i> of 21 October 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council with rules on the official controls in respect of consignments of organic products and in-conversion products intended for import into the Union and on the certificate of inspection.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2307</i> of 21 October 2021 laying down rules on documents and notifications required for organic and in-conversion products intended for import into the Union.</li><li>• <i>Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2325</i> of 16 December 2021 establishing, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the list of third countries and the list of control authorities and control bodies that have been recognised under Article 33(2) and (3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 for the purpose of importing organic products into the Union.</li></ul>
--	---

### Annex 3. Stakeholder meetings, held as part of the quality assurance process

1. Cornel Gutu, President of the scientific council of the Academy of Economic Studies, 19 March 2024;
2. Anatol Fala, ACSA representative, 12 March 2024 ;
3. Boris Boincean, former Director of Selectia Institute, 23 March 2024;
4. Diana Cosalic, Head of Agency for Interventions and Payment in Agriculture, 23 March 2024;
5. Vadim Cociu, Mayor of Stefan Voda, March 19 2024;
6. Viorel Garaz, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Digitalisation, 29 March 2024;
7. Iurie Scripnic, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, 29 March 2024
8. Alexei Micu, Micu&Co, 29 March 2024;
9. Mihai Bozianu, LLC "Biohoney" representative, 13 March 2024;
10. Radu Musteata, Head of National Agency for Food Safety, 22 March 2024;
11. Serghei Ibrism, Head of the Agricultural Department of Gagauzia, 12 March 2024;
12. Spartac Chilat, Prograin Organic representative, 25 March 2024;



---

[www.green-agenda.org](http://www.green-agenda.org)

