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## EUROPEAN UNION (EU) INTEGRATION AND POLICY SUPPORT IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

October 2024

SDGs:



Country:

Albania

Project Code:

TCP/ALB/3802

FAO Contribution:

USD 340 000

Duration:

20 May 2021–31 December 2023

Contact Info:

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### Implementing Partner

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

### Beneficiaries

Smallholders, producers, rural population and national institutions.

### Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

CPF Priority Area 2: Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks for agrifood production and climate change resilience for increased competitiveness and sustainability in the agricultural sector.

Output 2.1: MARD's capacities for technical negotiations with the EU and for SDG monitoring are strengthened.

**Regional Initiatives:** RI 2: Improving agrifood trade and market integration.



### BACKGROUND

Albania was granted European Union (EU) candidate status in June 2014. As part of the European Council's conclusions of June 2019, the country was expected to conduct several development processes to enhance the agricultural sector to align national policies to modern EU standards, laying the groundwork for the full implementation of the European instrument for pre accession assistance for rural development (IPARD). However, the agricultural system in Albania is mainly formed by small and family farms that operate with a low level of mechanization, and there is a lack of policy analysis, data collection systems, such as farm accountancy data networks (FADN) and reporting mechanisms, which are required to evaluate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

To address these challenges and continue preparing the EU-membership candidature, this project was designed to i) assist in completing the legal framework for organic products, wine by-laws, quality policy and seed and seedling by-laws, ii) advice on how to improve agricultural registries (for wine, for instance), develop an FADN action plan and adopt an EU-aligned FADN system in Albania, and iii) increase institutional capacities to provide an appropriate response while implementing EU funds for rural development (IPARD funds).

### IMPACT

The project strengthened institutional capacities specifically for establishment of the Farm Accountancy Data Network, and support for by-laws related to organic production, seed and seedling, wine and quality policy. FADN leads to the improvement of data-driven decision making and support for by-laws plays a crucial role in modernization and enhancing agriculture sector and local capacities and improved agricultural systems and rural development policies, establishing a solid foundation to monitor and evaluate effectiveness of national programmes and helping to align national policies with European standards.

### ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

An FADN action plan was proposed to the MARD and, after being endorsed, several capacity building activities were organized for the FADN working group. More than 100 administrative officers improved their knowledge and received administrative guidance regarding the implementation of complex FADN areas such as domestic requirements for organic production, vineyard cadastre, and promotion of GIs and traditional products. During implementation, a series of FADN-related training sessions were conducted for more than 30 officers from the FADN working group and agriculture extension services, as were two hands-on training sessions for FADN data collectors, a session on the European RICA-1 computerized system and an online workshop on structure query language (SQL). Then, a pilot activity was carried out to test the FADN software on 61 different farms to start the data collection process and a data-collection methodology was delivered to the MARD for further consideration.

As part of the activities to enhance business and strengthen competitiveness in local and international markets, more than 20 documents were drafted (in English and Albanian) to guide and support the elaboration of a legal framework for all administrative procedures. In addition, 15 officers from the MARD and other stakeholder institutions received training on GIs and monitoring, and an awareness-raising event with 300 participants was held to promote local and traditional products.





Regarding the progress to achieve the SDGs, the MARD and the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) received assistance in elaborating a national policy framework for the remaining SDG targets and goals through several meetings with relevant stakeholders and MARD officers responsible for the indicators. The conclusions and recommendations from these meetings and the subsequent validation workshop were included in a draft roadmap to be considered by all stakeholders.

Furthermore, the MARD received support to monitor the accomplishment of indicators of the Strategy for Rural Development and Fisheries (SRDF) 2021–2027 through a monitoring tool and a number of templates that would allow the ministry to perform quality reports for farm, olive and vineyard registering; to establish European farm variables needed to create a census; and to implement quality reports and technical protocols based on administrative data.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

All activities were completed within the initial budget, but after the inception meeting in November 2021 and an online meeting held with the MARD in February 2022, it was agreed to prioritize the development and implementation of the FADN software. Since the core technical work did not change, the project's impact and outcome remained unchanged. However, the workplan was updated, several activities were removed from the plan, such as the elaboration of agroprocessing and harvesting surveys or the design of financial instrument modalities, and a budget reallocation was carried out to cover the development of the software under national and European technological requirements. Furthermore, after updating the workplan, several feedback processes took longer than expected and some activities under Output 1 were delayed, leading to the request and approval of a no-cost extension to complete all FADN activities (developing specifications for the FADN software, the FADN manual, piloting the FADN data collection, establishing a 10-month period to train beneficiaries and allowing the ministry to collect data from 200 farmers during the spring and autumn seasons).

Both the project team, the government counterparts and other international stakeholders worked in close collaboration to address any emerging operational and technical issues by conducting follow-up meetings on a weekly-basis and monitoring the implementation of the workplan.



### FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

The activities provided successful results and many documents and resources were created as groundwork for the EU access application. As part of the recommendations provided during the project, it is advised that the MARD consider all draft legal documents, such as the FADN policy brief and action plan, developing the FADN software, and the by-laws on wine production or the creation and coordination of monitoring systems and inspections for wine production and geographically indicated products, to continue refining national regulations and implementing appropriate legislation. Regarding monitoring activities and reporting systems, it is suggested that the ministry initiate decision making processes about the lower threshold and the FADN sample size to start conducting regular data collection, based on the technical input provided during the workshops and the pilot activity.

### SUSTAINABILITY

#### 1. Capacity development

The main goal of this project was to enhance institutional, national and local capacities to improve agricultural systems and integrate EU regulations.

Regarding the MARD and other national institutions, several activities provided technical support on legal aspects on GIs, organic agriculture, seed propagation policies, , food security and policy monitoring and evaluation, and increased the mid-term and long-term capacities of staff. Furthermore, by training more than 100 participants from government institutions, producer associations and municipalities, the project created networks for knowledge exchange and supported daily institutional activities, thus ensuring the sustainability of results.



Regarding GIs, traditional products and organic agriculture, the activities focused on revealing local knowledge and unique local resources, but also on increasing local capacities. In fact, since the action plan and draft policies included recommendations for each agricultural area and given that beneficiaries and stakeholders received appropriate training to enhance their capacities, the knowledge provided is expected to be sufficient for ensuring the sustainability of activities at both ministerial and local levels.

## 2. Gender equality

Although the project did not address any specific aspects of gender equality, all activities were designed under the FAO Policy on Gender Equality (2020–2030), promoted women's participation and avoided any kind of discrimination. Moreover, the project results benefited all men, women and youth and equal opportunities were provided to both women and men producers and stakeholders during training sessions, seminars and field studies.

## 3. Environmental sustainability

Several activities contributed to promoting environmental sustainability through evidence-based interventions in agriculture, such as certification of organic products or the elaboration of codes of practices or certification for protected GIs, which are granted upon compliance with highly strict standards.

## 4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

Protecting typical products and strengthening the administrative system for organic agriculture contributed to establishing more sustainable agrifood systems, which should improve the access and proximity of the population to local, healthy products. Furthermore, by promoting GIs, certification, and internal and external quality control mechanisms, the project contributed to better commercial opportunities, and fairer working condition practices for small farmers and other value-chain actors.

## 5. Technological sustainability

The project contributed to developing FADN-software specifications and prepared FADN manuals based on the experience and knowledge acquired through field visits and exchanges with experts from Hungary and Kosovo<sup>1</sup>. As a result, the software technical specification integrated mandatory EU guidelines and was aligned with RICA-1 European registry.

All manuals and guidelines produced during the project will help the ministry and any other interested institutions to continue organizing training activities and increasing institutional skills and knowledge without further technical support.

## 6. Economic sustainability

By strengthening the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and improving institutional capacities on the elaboration of national agriculture and rural development policies, the project contributed indirectly to drawing the attention of national and international entities to invest in Albanian markets, and promoted long-lasting partnerships among and between national and international stakeholders, such as the Hungarian Institute of Agricultural Economics (AKI), responsible for agricultural policy analysis using the FADN system, the Agricultural University in Tirana (AUT), and other expert networks created with members from networks of national expert and advisory services in Croatia, Germany, Hungary and Kosovo. Furthermore, the Government of Albania showed its commitment to support FADN in Albania and to allocate funds and resources through an FADN ministerial unit to continue developing the software.

Since most of the activities were designed to improve institutional capacities and to align national frameworks with further EU standards on agriculture and rural development, such as GIs, organic agriculture, seed law, FADN or vineyard registration, all project products were designed according to best practices, built on a dialogue with producer groups and municipalities, and considering the unique characteristics of Albanian agrifood system.



<sup>1</sup>References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

## DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

### Documents (available upon request)

- ❑ **Cera, G.** 2023. *FADN manual*.
- ❑ **Delic, I.** 2023a. *Guide for drafting a control plan for the procedure of verification of compliance with the product specification for protected designations of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI) or traditional specialty guaranteed (TSG)*.
- ❑ **Delic, I.** 2023b. *Table of correspondence for certification and marketing of forest reproductive material*.
- ❑ **Delic, I.** 2023c. *Table of correspondence for certification of medicinal and aromatic plants*.
- ❑ **Delic, I.** 2023d. *Table of correspondence for maximum quantities of non-marketed plant propagating material*.
- ❑ **Delic, I.** 2023e. *Table of correspondence for maximum quantities of plant propagation material of variety – on process of registration in the national catalogue*.
- ❑ **Delic, I.** 2023f. *Technical input to the draft rulebook on certification and marketing of forestry reproductive material*.
- ❑ **Dugum, J.** 2022a. *Technical guide on how to develop a GI specifications review process and an inspection control list*.
- ❑ **Dugum, J.** 2022b. *Technical input for the Rulebook on certification of medicinal and aromatic plants*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023a. *Action plan for the implementation of organic policy in Albania*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023b. *Overview of the EU legislation regarding organic production, labelling and control*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023c. *Procedure for control of organic operators' certificate in TRACES*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023d. *Table of correspondence for control of import of organic and in-conversion products*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023e. *Table of correspondence for production rules for organic livestock production (also available in Albanian)*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023f. *Table of correspondence for production rules for organic aquaculture production (also available in Albanian)*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023g. *Technical advice regarding controls of import of organic and in-conversion products (also available in Albanian)*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023h. *Technical advice regarding production rules for organic livestock production (also available in Albanian)*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023i. *Technical advice regarding production rules for organic aquaculture production (also available in Albanian)*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023j. *Technical input for the Rulebook on maximum quantities of non-marketed plant propagating material*.
- ❑ **Durkovic, G.** 2023k. *Technical input for the Rulebook on the maximum quantities of plant propagation material of variety – on process of registration in the national catalogue*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2022a. *Policy Brief 1: "Monitoring the impact of the Ukraine war on Albanian food and agricultural sector – results from field observations and secondary statistics"*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2022b. *Policy Brief 2: "Institutional aspects to enhance food security in Albania"*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2022c. *Roadmap to produce 21 SDG indicators in Albania with FAO assistance*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023a. *Draft questions for the CENSUS*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023b. *Eurofarm variables needed for the census*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023c. *Quality report for farm registering, olive registering, Animal and Veterinary Information System (RUDA), and vineyard register*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023d. *Quality report template for administrative data*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023e. *Quality report template for administrative data – instructions*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023f. *SRDF monitoring report*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023g. *SRDF monitoring tool – explanatory note on how to apply it*.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023h. *SRDF monitoring tool*.
- ❑ **Hoxha, B.** 2023a. *Technical input to the draft ministerial order on a) application form and additional rules for registration in the vineyard registry, b) definition of rules for operators' declarations and modalities of gathering information, and c) definition of detailed rules for inward and outward registration*.
- ❑ **Hoxha, B.** 2023b. *Terms of reference for the study on "Wine grape cultivation areas" in Albania*.
- ❑ **Keszthelyi, S.** 2023. *Report on RICA-1 data checks*.
- ❑ **Nanevski, V.** 2023a. *Draft methodology for assessment of dead-weight risk loss according to the IPARD Programme 2021–2027 in Albania and relevant legislation for implementation of IPARD III*.
- ❑ **Nanevski, V.** 2023b. *Review and update ARDA checklists for measures 1 and 3 – olive and aromatic plant sectors, as well as the fish sector for measure 3, according to the IPARD III Programme*.
- ❑ **Maksuti, A.** 2023a. *FADN data collection methodology*.
- ❑ **Maksuti, A.** 2023b. *Report on FADN data collection for 61 farms*.





Outreach material

- ❑ **AUT.** 2023. *FADN introduction at Agriculture University of Tirana.* (Only available in Albanian).  
<https://www.ubt.edu.al/event/analiza-e-te-dhenave-te-fadn-prezantim-i-sistemit-ne-ubt-2023-04-14-98/register>
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023-2024. *Chestnut day.*  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/128106072@N05/albums/72177720313382728/>.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023a. *FADN data collection in the field.*
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023b. *Training of FADN data collectors.*  
<https://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/news-archive/detail-news/zh/c/1655822/>.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2023c. *Training of FADN working group.*  
<https://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/news-archive/detail-news/en/c/1605310/>.
- ❑ **MARD.** 2023. *FADN training for data collectors.* (Only available in Albanian)  
[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0Jo7CjKojiQriQfjT4BZLR7ejsXr4SUn8Q59qCkrFCtwNSuKrbLsR4xwYvSSGrrEVI&id=100064380381783&mibextid=Nif5oz](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0Jo7CjKojiQriQfjT4BZLR7ejsXr4SUn8Q59qCkrFCtwNSuKrbLsR4xwYvSSGrrEVI&id=100064380381783&mibextid=Nif5oz).
- ❑ **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development.** 2022. *FADN visit in Kosovo.*  
<https://www.mbpzhr-ks.net/sq/lajmet/kosova-dhe-shqiperia-bashkepunojne-ne-zbatimin-e-sistemit-te-fadn-se>.



- ❑ **United Nations (UN).** 2021. *FADN project launching event.*  
[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02wNajpmXhVBYWLffhXD1RnMieVnjExKE8XB4WqbchrurA7q1D9sLVBa3uk8DNdrcl&id=119376631560623&mibextid=Nif5oz](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02wNajpmXhVBYWLffhXD1RnMieVnjExKE8XB4WqbchrurA7q1D9sLVBa3uk8DNdrcl&id=119376631560623&mibextid=Nif5oz).
- ❑ **UN.** 2022. *FADN insertion workshop.*  
[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0PZX43WfzFn18AJBT9VcrfAYgu1yfbSZRCqJVR8Gw2LUoTnG8NUhsveEbv9ZA7u5YI&id=119376631560623&mibextid=Nif5oz](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0PZX43WfzFn18AJBT9VcrfAYgu1yfbSZRCqJVR8Gw2LUoTnG8NUhsveEbv9ZA7u5YI&id=119376631560623&mibextid=Nif5oz).



## ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<b>Expected Impact</b>	<b>Strengthened and improved agriculture and rural development policies with capacities in place for absorption of the IPARD programmes</b>		
<b>Outcome</b>	Successful gradual EU integration and strengthened monitoring of the achievement of national agriculture-related SDGs		
	<b>Indicator</b>	EU Progress report 2022/3 recognizes the progress made.	
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	
	<b>End Target</b>	One.	
	<b>Comments and follow-up action to be taken</b>	The progress on the implementation of an FADN was recognized by the European Council in their Albania report (2023). The FADN action plan was prepared and, after being endorsed by the MARD, several capacity-building activities were organized for the FADN working group. More than 100 administrative officers improved their knowledge and received administrative guidance regarding the implementation of the FADN's complex areas, such as domestic requirements for organic livestock production or organic imports, vineyard cadastre and registry design, seed and seedling policy framework, food security assessment, a national monitoring agricultural strategy, and registration, certification and promotion of GIs and traditional products. Furthermore, the project successfully supported the Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA) by enhancing institutional capacities to manage the new IPARD programme.	
<b>Output 1</b>	Implementation plan for FADN prepared		
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
	FADN implementation plan prepared for adoption and up to 30 staff of advisory services and ministry trained to support FADN software.	One	Yes
<b>Baseline</b>	0		
<b>Comments</b>	The FADN implementation plan was prepared along with FADN technical specifications for the software. More than 30 officers from the ministry, advisory services and local municipalities participated in the process.		
<b>Activity 1.1</b>	<b>Develop capacities for FADN implementation</b>		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	The technical working group was established in July 2022 with members from the MARD, the INSTAT, the ARDA, the AUT and the National Agency for State Information (AKSHI). During implementation, a series of FADN-related training sessions were conducted for more than 30 officers from the FADN working group and agriculture extension services: i) the inception workshop; ii) a training session on farm return; iii) a workshop for FADN data-collection specialists; iv) two hands-on training sessions for FADN data collectors; v) a training session on the European RICA-1 computerized system; vi) an online training session on SQL and Microsoft Power BI.	

Activity 1.2	Prepare the basis for FADN implementation	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	<p>As part of the groundwork for the FADN implementation, the following documents and procedures were elaborated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An FADN action plan was finalized, approved by the working group and shared with the MARD for endorsement.</li> <li>- An FADN manual or guide was prepared and shared with MARD.</li> <li>- A document on EU-harmonized farm structures was elaborated with support from the INSTAT.</li> <li>- A pilot plan to start data-collection processes through the FADN was completed based on farm structure. The FADN considered 61 farms as samples, depending on farm type, economic size and region.</li> <li>- A data-collection methodology was prepared (available in Albanian) and shared with the MARD.</li> <li>- Before starting the pilot activity, the questionnaire was tested in five farms.</li> <li>- Technical specifications for the FADN software were developed and shared with the MARD and the AKSHI.</li> <li>- An Excel tool was developed to convert spreadsheets to XML files.</li> <li>- Two study tours were organized to Kosovo (June 2022) and Hungary (January 2023).</li> <li>- Development of the FADN software and delivery to AKSHI and MARD. In addition, the Montenegrin FADN software was presented online to AKSHI and MARD.</li> <li>- An FADN spreadsheet-based solution to collect data was prepared and shared with MARD.</li> <li>- The Albanian FADN was registered in the European Council's FADN registry. One RICA-1 account, and several XML files were created for Albania, and a number of training sessions on RICA-1 were organized for the FADN working group. The information collected from the 40 pilot farms was uploaded to the RICA-1 registry. Furthermore, experts from the MARD were trained to correct some anomalies and severe errors and provide justifications. The FADN unit was encouraged to also upload the information gathered between November and December 2023 for 21 additional farms.</li> <li>- A draft FADN policy brief for Albania was developed as an example for future policy briefs that the ministry and the FADN working group might develop.</li> </ul> <p>It is advised that the ministry initiate decision-making processes about the lower threshold and the FADN sample size based on the technical input that was provided.</p>
Activity 1.3	Implementation plan for FADN	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	<p>A draft legal proposal was elaborated and shared with MARD in July 2022, based on different approaches from other EU-candidate countries on FADN legislation (North Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo). Moreover, the MARD initiated the implementation of the FADN plan.</p>



<b>Output 2</b>	Framework conditions for producers and businesses for strengthening their competitiveness at the domestic and export markets completed		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of documents prepared to support the administrative circulars and up to 15 staff of the ministry and background institutions trained.	Five	Yes
<b>Baseline</b>	0		
<b>Comments</b>	Around 20 documents were drafted (in English and, many of them, also in Albanian) to guide and support the elaboration of a legal framework for all administrative procedures, such as a draft proposal on vineyard registration and potential production, in accordance with EU wine law and practices. In addition, 15 officers from the MARD and other background institutions received training on GI and monitoring, and an awareness-raising event with 300 participants was held to promote local and traditional products.		
<b>Activity 2.1</b>	Prepare technical input to the by-laws related to new law on wine		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	<p>The project provided technical assistance and advice to MARD in the elaboration of three ministerial orders related to vineyard registration in a vineyard cadastre, compulsory declarations and internal and external registrations.</p> <p>A draft roadmap was elaborated upon request from the MARD in July 2023 to prepare the study "Wine grape cultivation areas". However, due to time constraints, the document only presented a draft background and study terms of reference.</p> <p>In addition, a meeting was organized in November 2023 to discuss draft ministerial orders and the case of wine quality control systems in Kosovo. During the workshop, the Albanian wine cadaster system was presented, while Kosovo's conversation focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The role and importance of the vineyard registry.</li> <li>- The coordination of monitoring, inspection, enforcement of laws in vineyards and wineries and the production of alcoholic beverages.</li> <li>- Registration of vineyards, their importance, construction methodologies, annual declarations, recording and updating of all changes in the registry and system functionalities.</li> <li>- Wine quality control management system, annual declarations, wine certifications and annexes.</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity 2.2</b>	Develop implementing procedures in quality policy		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	<p>The project provided technical assistance and advice to the MARD and the National Food Authority regarding the implementation of product quality legislation and procedures. For this purpose, three documents were prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A guide to elaborate a management plan, which would monitor product compliance with the requirements for protected designations of origin (PDO), PGIs and traditional specialty guaranteed (TSG).</li> <li>- A technical guide on how to develop and revise the GI specifications process.</li> <li>- A control list to perform inspections.</li> </ul> <p>Two training sessions were organized for MARD and NFA specialists in October 2022, and a field mission was conducted in the Shkoder region in November 2022 to train NFA specialists. In addition, an awareness-raising activity conducted in October 2023 in Tropoja for 300 participants contributed to promoting local products, such as chestnuts. A brochure including unique traditional products of Tropoja was prepared for this event.</p>	

<b>Activity 2.3</b>	<b>Prepare technical input to the by-laws to support the implementation of new law on organic production</b>		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	<p>The process to assist in the elaboration of national by-laws and on organic production was led by an international consultant, who prepared the following package of documents and recommendations to be revised and agreed with the MARD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An overview of EU legislation regarding organic production, labelling and control.</li> <li>- An action plan for the implementation of organic policies in Albania.</li> <li>- A set of production rules for organic livestock.</li> <li>- A table of correspondence to align organic livestock production with the developed rules.</li> <li>- A set of production rules for organic aquaculture.</li> <li>- A table of correspondence to align organic aquaculture production to the developed rules.</li> <li>- Control recommendations on imports of organic and in-conversion products.</li> <li>- A table of correspondence to adapt the system to the new control system of organic and in-conversion product imports.</li> <li>- A procedure to certificate operators responsible for organic monitoring through the European Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) platform.</li> </ul> <p>In order to provide technical inputs on laws and by-laws for planting and propagating plant material, a draft roadmap was prepared in collaboration with the international consultant for the implementation of a seed and seedling policy framework in Albania. Based on the roadmap, several recommendations and documents were delivered to the MARD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A guide and a table of correspondence on certification and marketing of forestry reproductive material.</li> <li>- A guide and a table of correspondence to establish maximum quantities of each variety of plant propagation material, which are being included in the national catalogue.</li> <li>- A guide and a table of correspondence on maximum quantities of non-marketed plant propagation material.</li> <li>- A guide and a table of correspondence on the certification of medicinal and aromatic plants.</li> </ul> <p>Technical support was also provided to ARDA for reviewing and updating their checklists on olive production and aromatic plants, according to IPARD III. Several recommendations were also provided to incorporate EU guidelines on minimizing the loss of dead weight, and a draft methodology was created for ARDA to prevent any risks related to dead-weight loss during the implementation of IPARD III for Albania 2021–2027, including relevant legislation to support the adoption of the programme.</p>	
<b>Output 3</b>	Investment support to agriculture and rural development elaborated, with a focus on smallholders, less favored areas, youth/young farmers, vulnerable groups		
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
	Report prepared and workshop organized with up to 10 participants.	One	Yes
<b>Baseline</b>	0		
<b>Comments</b>	In view of several global difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and other international constraints, this output was modified by the updated workplan to provide a policy framework adapted to the emerging needs of the MARD.		
<b>Activity 3.1</b>	<b>Prepare the response plan in response to external factors</b>		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	An analytical report on international constraints affecting the Albanian food and agricultural sector from March 2022 to November 2022 was elaborated and presented to the MARD. The report included qualitative data from a number of field interviews and quantitative statistical data. In addition, a policy brief on food security was also prepared and shared with MARD.	

<b>Output 4</b>	Data collection for policy analysis and support programmes as well as for reporting on SDGs improved		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of data collection tools improved, up to seven staff of the ministry and stakeholders trained.	One	Yes
<b>Baseline</b>	0		
<b>Comments</b>	The MARD and the INSTAT received assistance in elaborating a national policy framework for the missing SDG targets and goals. Furthermore, the MARD received support to monitor the accomplishment of indicators of the Strategy for Rural Development and Fisheries 2021–2027.		
<b>Activity 4.1</b>	Technical advice to MARD and INSTAT on elaboration of missing indicators (SDG targets/goals) and monitoring SFRD Indicators		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Two meetings were held with several officers from the INSTAT and the MARD responsible for the production of 21 SDG indicators. The meetings were conducted with the assistance of FAO, and the regional statistician summarized the topics of the meeting and provided recommendations to be validated in a subsequent workshop. Based on the feedback from the workshop, a draft roadmap was developed and presented to relevant stakeholders in Albania for further input.</p> <p>During this activity, a monitoring tool and a template were also created to support reporting on the SRDF indicators from 2021–2027. The documents were presented and discussed with several officers from the policy and statistics departments of the MARD.</p> <p>International consultants from the statistics field provided support to the INSTAT and the MARD on the creation of agricultural registries and census strategies such as i) a quality report for farm registering, RUDA, olive registering and vineyard registering (to be modified by administrative entities and INSTAT); ii) Eurofarm variables needed for the census; iii) a quality report to use as a template with instructions for administrative data, and iv) a technical protocol template.</p>	



**Partnerships and Outreach**

For more information, please contact: [Reporting@fao.org](mailto:Reporting@fao.org)

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

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