Latvian Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
Measure M16
Cooperation
Aim of M16 «Cooperation»

- To facilitate cooperation among
  - Agricultural stakeholders
  - Forestry stakeholders
  - Agricultural processing stakeholders

In order to develop

New products, processes, technologies and methods in these sectors
Innovative solutions at sectoral level

Beneficiaries

16.1. EIP working group, composed of farmers (agricultural producers), forest owners (or legal possessors), processors of agricultural products (excluding fishery products), NGO or cooperative companies, representing them, researchers (also students), advisers and other parties interested in innovations

Projects to be supported:
- at least nationally significant
- facilitating the development of the sector in general
- focusing on creativity
- envisaging innovative solutions in the industry or its sector
- with a wider scope of potential beneficiaries

Preference is given to a wider cooperation group

at least 3 partners, where 1 is a farmer or forest owner
Cooperation – submeasure 16.2. New product, method, process or technology at least at **enterprise level**

**Beneficiaries**

Group of potential beneficiaries, composed of farmers (agricultural producers), forest owners (or legal possessors), processors of agricultural products (excluding fishery products), NGO, representing them, researcher

**Projects to be supported:**

- envisaging novel solutions at the **enterprise level** (**new products, methods, processes or technologies**)
- offering a solution applicable in the industry or in sectors
- focusing on the development of a full production cycle (covers primary production and processing)

At least 2 partners

Preference is given to a wider cooperation group
Implementation scheme of M16.1.

Projects are selected in two stages:

Stage 1 – The idea of the project – a brief, concise description – A commission set up by the Managing Authority, involving experts from the field (at least 3)

Stage 2 – detailed project – evaluated by the Paying Agency, may attract relevant experts

Submits an application, describing:
- Necessity for the project implementation
- The attainable target
- Economic usefulness of the project
- Intended results, investments and activities to be implemented
- Potential composition of EIP working group
- Total envisaged funding in the Project
- Project risk analysis

Evaluation criteria:
- Composition of partners of EIP working group
- Scope of application
- Contribution to industries and sectors
- Project quality
- Working capacity

Announces the call for ideas
Beginning of acceptance
Default
30 days
Within 2 months MoA commission evaluates and makes a decision
Final decision of the Commission

Implementation scheme of M16.1.
Implementation scheme of M16.1.

Stage 2

Positive decision of the MoA commission
The applicant submits to RSS a detailed project application
PA evaluates and makes the final decision

Evaluation criteria:
• Composition of partners of EIP working group
• Scope of application
• Contribution to industries and sectors
• Project quality
• Working capacity
• Project readiness
• Dissemination of results
• Submission of the Project application

Project implementation time is 5 years – 2022, but not later than June 30, 2023
Cooperation partners select the **Leading partner**, which:

- represents EIP working group or working group of potential beneficiaries
- submits the project application to Rural Support Service
- coordinates the project implementation
- receives the pre-payments and channels the funding further to cooperation partners in accordance to their implemented activities (submeasure 16.1.)

The **Leading partner** is responsible for achievement of results, planned in the project.
Implementation difficulties

• **Involvement of experts** – LV is a small country; respective experts involved in projects - potential conflict of interests;

• **Application of criteria** - objective vs. subjective assessment?

• **Demarcation** between the innovation of the sector (M16.1.) vs. enterprise (M16.2.) – not always obvious at the level of project idea

• **Change of thinking** – responsible authorities should be more flexible; avoid loosing the objective of the project among all the details
Thank you for attention!

Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia
Rural Development Support Department