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Annex

LATVIA'S NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS 2017 – 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Article 36(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013¹, the Member States that have recognised producer organisations must establish a National Framework drawing up the general conditions relating to the environmental actions eligible for support under the operational programmes implemented by recognised producer organisations in the fruit and vegetable sector (hereinafter referred to as – the National Framework).

Pursuant to Article 3(1) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2017/892², the National Framework must set out a non-exhaustive list of environmental actions and the conditions thereof applicable in the Member State:

- a) actions that are identical to agri-environment-climate or organic farming commitments which are provided for under the rural development programme (hereinafter referred to as – RDP)³;
- b) investments beneficial for the environment; and
- c) other actions beneficial for the environment.

For each environmental action mentioned in (a) and (b) points, indicate:

- the justification of the action on the basis of its environmental impact; and
- the specific commitment(-s) entailed.

National Framework aims at meeting the above-mentioned requirements, based on the priorities set by Latvia regarding the environmental protection and taking into account the specific characteristics of the Latvian fruit and vegetable sector and the impact of the mentioned sector on the environment.

Pursuant to Article 33(5) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013, it is a mandatory requirement for producer organisations that:

- 1) operational programmes include at least two environmental actions; or
- 2) at least 10% of the expenditures under operational programmes covers environmental actions.

Where at least 80% of the members of a producer organisation are subject to one or more identical agri-environmental commitments under the Rural Development programme, then this commitment counts as an environmental action as referred to in the above point (a). This applies, for instance, when at least 80% of the members of a producer organisation implement

¹ Eiropas Parlamenta un Padomes 2013. gada 17. decembra Regula (ES) Nr. 1308/2013, ar ko izveido lauksaimniecības produktu tirgu kopīgu organizāciju un atceļ Padomes Regulas (EEK) Nr. 922/72, (EEK) Nr. 234/79, (EK) Nr. 1037/2001 un (EK) Nr. 1234/2007

² Komisijas Īstenošanas 2017. gada 13. marta Regula (ES) Nr. 2017/892, ar ko nosaka noteikumus par Eiropas Parlamenta un Padomes Regulas (ES) Nr. 1308/2013 piemērošanu attiecībā uz augļu un dārzeņu un pārstrādātu augļu un dārzeņu nozari

³ Latvijas Lauku attīstības programma 2014.–2020. gadam

the measures "Organic farming" and "Agri-environmental-climate" or the measure "Implementation of Environmentally-friendly methods in Gardening" under the Latvia's Rural Development programme.

Environment actions are organised taking into account the Article 30 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 2017/891⁴.

2. PRIORITISATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIFICITIES OF THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SECTOR

Water

Water has a substantial role in the agricultural production. However, it must be taken into account that in the future water resources will be less available and therefore this natural resource must be preserved in the regions where water scarcity is not common.

Directive 2000/60/EC⁵ establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Water Framework Directive) lays down legal basis for protection and restoration of water all over the Europe and for ensuring a sustainable water use in the long-run.

In Latvia, requirements of the Water Framework Directive are implemented by the Water Management Law and several other legal acts on protection of the water environment and water quality, as well as water management plans for river basins. These measures include the monitoring of water status, evaluation of the impact of human actions, and the economic analysis of water consumption. The water quality objectives and the measures for reaching these objectives are set out in the plans.

Council Directive 91/676/EEC⁶ (hereinafter referred to as the "Nitrate Directive") has set out the objective to reduce and eliminate pollution of waters by nitrates from agricultural sources. The Nitrate Directive lays down the requirement for Member States to prepare conditions for good agricultural practice, to determine vulnerable territories wherefrom pollution by nitrogen compounds get into vulnerable waters and to implement measures under Directive to restrict the use of fertilizers containing all types of nitrogen and properly arrange manure management.

State Ltd "Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre", in accordance with Regulation No 834⁷ pursuant to the Nitrate Directive, is responsible for organising the groundwater and underground water nitrate monitoring. In accordance with the national regulation, State Plant Protection Service (hereinafter referred to as the "Service") monitors vulnerable areas every year, while the concentration of nitrate and other nitrogen compounds are analysed annually in the remaining territory of Latvia in order to observe the permanent change in water quality and acquire additional information on the impact of agricultural activity on the water pollution in the country. Pursuant to Regulation No 834, the permissible amount of nitrate (NO₃⁻) concentration is 50 mg/l (which is equal to 11.3 mg/l of nitrogen (N)). Although Directive 2000/60/EK has a broader scope, Regulation No 834 mainly deals with nitrates from agricultural

⁴ Komisijas Deleģētā 2017. gada 13. marta Regula (ES) Nr. 2017/891, ar ko Eiropas Parlamenta un Padomes regulu (ES) Nr.1308/2013 papildina attiecībā uz augļu un dārzeņu un pārstrādātu augļu un dārzeņu nozari un Eiropas Parlamenta un Padomes Regulu (ES) Nr.1306/2013 papildina attiecībā uz sodiem, kas piemērojami minētajās nozarēs, un groza Komisijas Īstenošanas regulu (ES) Nr.543/2011.

⁵ Eiropas Parlamenta un Padomes 2000. gada 23. oktobra Direktīva 2000/60/EK, ar ko izveido sistēmu Kopienas rīcībai ūdens resursu politikas jomā (turpmāk - Ūdens pamatdirektīva).

⁶ Eiropas Savienības Ministru padomes 1991. gada 12. decembra direktīvā 91/676/EEC "Par ūdeņu aizsardzību pret piesārņojumu ar nitrātiem, kas cēlušies no lauksaimnieciskās darbības".

⁷ Ministru Kabineta 2014. gada 23. decembra noteikumi Nr.834 „Noteikumi par ūdens un augsnes aizsardzību no lauksaimnieciskās darbības izraisīta piesārņojuma ar nitrātiem”.

sources and their effects on pollution. The protection of water resources and their quality against other factors is set out in the Water Management Law, Law on Pollution, Law on Subterranean Depths, Protection Zone Law and the national regulations pursuant to them.

According to the Protection Zone Law, zones are indicated with the aim to reduce the negative impact of an object on the environment or public health. For instance, the Protection Zone Law sets out the requirement to create protective zones along coasts of watercourses and open water basins and forbids the usage of fertilizers and chemical plant protection products, but at the same time does not limit the preparation of the soil or production of agricultural products.

Taking into account that water pollution is mainly caused by leaching and transformation of organic and non-organic compounds, the National Framework shall provide support for environment protection measures that would reduce the discharge of agricultural chemicals to surface and water (e.g. open-field intercropping and use of vegetable fertilisers, the creation of buffer strips etc.).

A considerate use of water resources is one of the conditions for sustainable agricultural ecosystem. Farmers often use sprinkler irrigation systems for growing vegetables in open fields. Such water resource management is ineffective because in hot weather a part of the water used for irrigation evaporates before it soaks into the soil. Therefore, some additional water is needed in order to guarantee optimal net dosage for vegetation. For growing vegetables in covered areas (greenhouses), a considerable amount of water is also used; therefore, it is necessary to introduce new and effective irrigation technologies and measures in order to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation.

Biological diversity

Conservation of biological diversity requires promotion of application of plant protection actions in production of fruit and vegetables that would be safe for the environment. Promotion of methods of vegetation free of chemically synthesised substances for fertilizers and plant protection actions, or using such substances in registered dosage, is required. Healthy soil – natural and live unit with diverse flora and fauna – is a precondition of biological diversity.

Integrated plant protection is one of the means of preserving biological diversity. Directive 2009/128/EK⁸ of 21 October 2009 had to be implemented by 29 November 2011, but some of the requirements, including the integrated plant protection, by 2014. General principles and requirements for the integrated plant protection are set out in the Part II of the Cabinet Regulation No 1056⁹. The integrated Pest Management measures under Directive 2009/128/EC is fully implemented into national law. These requirements (find attached in the Annex) are compulsory for all specialist users of plant preservatives, as well as persons who have not obtained a certificate allowing to purchase second-registration class plant protection products, but who use them in practice.

One of the elements of integrated pest management is usage of natural enemies of pests or entomophages (predators, parasites, etc.) instead of use of chemical insecticides. Entomophage species are reproduced in specialised laboratories, but many entomophage species also inhabit the wild. The wild is also a natural habitat for several species of pollinator-insects. The measures that contribute to reproduction of the wild entomophage and pollinator insects near gardens and fields should also be supported.

Air pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions

⁸ Eiropas Parlamenta un Padomes 2009. gada 21. oktobra Direktīva 2009/128/EK, ar kuru nosaka Kopienas sistēmu pesticīdu ilgtermiņā lietošanas nodrošināšanai

⁹ Ministru kabineta 2009. gada 15. septembra noteikumi Nr.1056 "Lauksaimniecības produktu integrētās audzēšanas, uzglabāšanas un marķēšanas prasības un kontroles kārtība" (<https://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=197883>)

On 29 April 2009 the European Parliament adopted a Climate and Energy Package requiring the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the EU) Member States together by 2020 reduce the greenhouse gas (hereinafter referred to as the GHG) emissions by 20% in comparison to 1990, increase energy efficiency by 20% and make renewable energy 20% of the overall energy consumption. The Climate and Energy Package sets new, higher requirements for Latvia as regards the use of energy from renewable sources, where the energy produced from the renewable resources must be as to 40% of the total energy end-use, including 10% transport, as well as related reduction of GHG emissions. Therefore, the vegetable sector, regarding covered structures and open field alike, requires actions promoting efficient use of energy and land, providing productions of products with high added value without increasing air pollutant and the GHG emissions.

Waste management

Reduction of waste is one of the main priorities set by the environmental policy of the EU regarding the hierarchy of waste. It is followed by the re-use of waste, recycling, other type of regeneration with energy recovery and storage of waste in landfill sites. By the year 2020, EU expects reducing the amount of biodegradable total municipal waste (by weight) stored in landfill sites to 35% of 1995 levels¹⁰.

Therefore, fruit and vegetable sectors also require management methods to reduce the amount of waste caused in the production process. In this respect, it appears important to promote, for instance, the use of biodegradable mulch polythene, biodegradable tying material and biodegradable substrata for plant cultivation as well as the re-cycling of organic production residues and biological municipal waste for the production of compost.

3. DEFINING PROGRAMME GOALS

The National Framework is established in accordance with the long-term strategic objectives of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (hereinafter referred to as CAP):

- 1) agricultural competitiveness;
- 2) sustainable management of natural resources and climate policy;
- 3) balanced territorial development in rural areas.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned goals, several EU rural development priorities are determined, including:

- to renew, preserve and improve agricultural ecosystems;
- to promote an effective use of resources and support the transition to a low-carbon economy in the agriculture sector.

Therefore, taking into account the CAP goals, the National Framework shall encourage improvements in the following areas: biological diversity, preservation of ecologically valuable agriculture systems and traditional agricultural landscapes, effective water management and waste reduction, and climate change prevention.

Considering the environment preservation priorities set by the CAP and characteristics of the fruit and vegetable sector and their impact on the environment operational programmes of producer organisations should include actions aimed at the following:

- a) sustainable use and protection of water;
- b) maintenance and preservation of biodiversity;

¹⁰ State's plan of waste management 2013.-2020.

- c) limiting the emission of air pollutant and the GHG;
- d) prevention of waste production and development of waste management.

4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS SELECTED UNDER AN OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Environmental actions are organised in accordance with Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2017/892 and as referred to in the Point 5 of this programme, environmentally friendly list of measures.

Environmental actions included in the operational programme of a producer organisation shall exceed:

- a) the relevant mandatory cross-compliance obligations established pursuant to Article 93 and 94 and of Regulation (EC) No 1306/2013 and Chapter 8 and Annex 5 of Provisions No 126¹¹;
- b) requirements concerning the maintenance of agricultural land for crop farming in an adequate state pursuant to Sections ii) and iii) of Sub-paragraph c) of Paragraph 1 of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1306/2013 and Articles 65 and 67 of Provisions No 126;
- c) requirements for the use of fertilisers and plant protection products established by the national legislation;
- d) other relevant mandatory requirements established by the national legislation in relation to the environment and its protection.

The environmental actions included in the National Framework are:

- 1) identical to agri-environmental-climate or biological diversity measures in compliance with the RDP;
- 2) compatible and complementary with the other environmental actions implemented under the operational programme and, where appropriate, with the agri-environmental commitments, supported under the RDP, implemented by the members of the Producer Organisation;
- 3) Investments beneficial for environment and other actions having a positive impact on the environment corresponding to the provisions of this programme.

The support shall be granted if contributions to the environmental protection fall under the requirements of Paragraph 3 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 2017/892.

Where an operational programme entails the possibility of combining different, mutually complementing environmental actions, they may be combined. In case the combined environmental actions do not contribute to the fixed assets, the level of support must take account of the specific income foregone and additional costs resulting from the combination.

By granting aid for environmental actions, requirements laid down in Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 2017/891¹² are followed.

5. LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

¹¹ Ministru kabineta 2015. gada 10. marta noteikumi Nr.126 "Tiešo maksājumu piešķiršanas kārtība lauksaimniekiem"

¹² Komisijas Deleģētā 2017. gada 13. marta Regula (ES) Nr. 2017/891, ar ko Eiropas Parlamenta un Padomes regulu (ES) Nr.1308/2013 papildina attiecībā uz augļu un dārzeņu un pārstrādātu augļu un dārzeņu nozari un Eiropas Parlamenta un Padomes Regulu (ES) Nr.1306/2013 papildina attiecībā uz sodiem, kas piemērojami minētajās nozarēs, un groza Komisijas Īstenošanas regulu (ES) Nr.543/2011

For the actions 5.1.1., 5.1.2., 5.1.3., 5.2.2., 5.2.6., 5.2.7., 5.2.8., 5.3.1., 5.3.2., 5.3.3., 5.3.4. and 5.4.1., mentioned in this Chapter, the term “setting up” incorporates the supply and installation of a relevant equipment or its components (incl. also training) at the place where it is located so that the respective equipment, utilities, software, etc. could operate fully

For the measures 5.1.1., 5.1.2., 5.1.3., 5.3.1., 5.3.2., 5.3.3., and 5.3.4., mentioned in this Chapter, the term “designing” incorporates drawing up of the project in compliance with RO needs, incl. preparation of relevant documents.

5.1. Sustainable Use and Protection of Water

Action 5.1.1: Collection of rainfall water and second circuit of irrigation water in covered structures

The purpose of the action -

To reduce water consumption by using rainwater and a closed irrigation system in covered structures.

Justification of the action

Efficient use of water resources is one of the conditions of sustainable agricultural ecosystem; therefore, it requires promotion of actions reducing the amount of water used for irrigating cultivated plants. Cultivation of plants in covered structures requires a large amount of water; thus producer organisations should be asked to invest in equipment and structures allowing collection of rainfall from roofs of greenhouses, clean, disinfect and store it and use of the water collected for irrigation of cultivated plants, as well as in equipment for creating closed irrigation water circuits (i.e. equipment for collecting irrigation water, cleaning, disinfecting and storing it, and analysing the quality of water in order to verify the concentration of nutrients and use the water again).

Commitments

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitments:

- Purchase and setting up of equipment and designing costs allowing the collection of rainfall from roofs of greenhouses and the use of the water collected for the irrigation of plants cultivated in the greenhouses;
- purchase, setting up and designing costs for equipment that allows cleaning and / or disinfection of rainwater (filters and disinfectors may be separate equipment or combined in one installation);
- Purchase and setting up and designing costs of the equipment necessary for creating closed irrigation water circuits.

In all cases, the beneficiary of the support must ensure the maintenance and the use as intended of the irrigation system installed during the whole monitoring period (minimum five years) of the new equipment/structures purchased. This is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

Eligibility for support is limited. The equipment should allow for reducing the volume of water used for irrigation by at least 15% in the monitoring period, as attested by the technical specifications provided by a qualified body or expert. A lower minimum reduction in the monitoring period of at least 7% in water use might be acceptable, provided that the investment

is expected to bring at least one other environmental benefit, such as a reduction in the use of energy or fertilisers.

The investment cannot lead to an increase in the irrigated area, with the exception of Article 3 (4) (4) (b) of Regulation (EEC) No 2017/892.

Eligible costs

Costs related to the investment made on the new equipment purchased, setting up and designing costs.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the investment made and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Where investments are replaced, the residual value of the investments replaced must be:

- (a) added to the operational fund of the producer organisation; or
- (b) subtracted from the cost of the replacement.

Action 5.1.2: More efficient use of irrigation water

The purpose of the action -

To reduce water consumption by using more efficient irrigation equipment.

Justification of the action

For cultivation of open-field vegetables mainly irrigation systems spraying water over the cultivation area are used. Such use of water resources is not efficient as in hot weather conditions part of the water lands on the ground, evaporates and does not soak into the soil. Therefore a large amount of water is required to provide optimal humidity for vegetation of cultivated plants.

Cultivation and fertilisation of cultivated plants in covered structures likewise requires a large amount of water; therefore actions for replacement of existing irrigation equipment with equipment consuming less water are required.

Commitments

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitment:

- Purchase, setting up and designing costs of a new water saving irrigation system replacing the existing one.
Maintenance and use as intended of new irrigation system installed during the whole monitoring period (minimum five years) is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

Eligibility for support is limited. The equipment should allow for reducing the volume of water used for irrigation by at least 15% in the monitoring period, as attested by the technical specifications provided by a qualified body or expert. A lower minimum reduction in the monitoring period of at least 7% in water use might be acceptable, provided that the investment is expected to bring at least one other environmental benefit, such as a reduction in the use of energy or fertilisers.

If investments in drip irrigation or similar systems are implemented, they must provide at least 5% reduction in water consumption compared to consumption before investment.

The investment cannot lead to an increase in the irrigated area, with the exception of Article 3 (4) (4) (b) of Regulation (EEC) No 2017/892.

Eligible costs

Costs related to the investment made on the new equipment purchased, setting up and designing costs.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the investment made and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Where investments are replaced, the residual value of the investments replaced must be:

- (a) added to the operational fund of the producer organisation; or
- (b) subtracted from the cost of the replacement.

Action 5.1.3: Investments for reuse of water for washing fruit and vegetables or irrigation

The purpose of the action -

To reduce water consumption by storing, cleaning, disinfecting and reusing water for washing vegetables or fruit or for irrigation, as well as for the washing of inventory and equipment.

Justification of the action

In the process of washing fruits and vegetables, and preparing those for sale, a large amount of water is used; actions aimed at storing, cleaning, disinfecting and reusing water for washing vegetables or fruit or for irrigation, as well as for the washing of inventory and equipment can contribute to reducing water consumption.

Commitments

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken the following commitment:

- Purchase and setting up of a equipment and structures for collecting, storing, disinfecting and reusing water used for washing or pre-processing fruits and vegetables or irrigation, as well as for the washing of inventory and equipment;
Maintenance and use as intended of the new system installed during the whole monitoring period (minimum five years) is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

Eligibility for support is limited to equipment and structures that allow for reducing the volume of groundwater water and surface water used for washing or pre-processing fruits and vegetables or irrigation, as well as the washing of inventory and equipment by at least 15%, as attested by the technical specifications provided by a qualified body or expert. A lower minimum reduction of at least 7% in water use might be acceptable, provided that the investment is expected to bring other environmental benefits, such as a reduction in use of energy.

Eligible costs

Costs related to the investment made on the new equipment purchased, setting up and designing costs.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the investment made and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Where investments are replaced, the residual value of the investments replaced must be:

- (a) added to the operational fund of the producer organisation; or
- (b) subtracted from the cost of the replacement.

Demarcation with RDP:

<i>RDP EAFRD measures</i>	<i>Environmental program</i>	<i>Demarcation</i>
“Investments in fixed assets”	Measure 5.1.1. : Collection of precipitation water and a repeated use of water in covered areas	Demarcation between EAFRD and EAGF administrative procedures will provide that the support granted in 2014-2020 RDP in the fruit and vegetable sector will not overlap with the aid granted by this programme.
	Measure 5.1.2: A more effective use of water for watering	
	Measure 5.1.3: Investments into repeated use of water for washing of fruits and vegetables	

5.2. Maintenance and Preservation of Biodiversity

Action 5.2.1: Use of biologic plant protection agents and natural enemies of pests

The purpose of the action -

To optimize use of plant protection products by using alternative harmful containment methods.

Justification of the action

In individual stages of conventional cultivation of fruits and vegetables, alternative control techniques for the reduction of harmful organisms - microbiological plant protection products and materials or plant protection products containing live natural enemies of pests (e.g. predators, pest parasites) can be used for managing or eliminating pests, instead of chemical plant protection products. Pest monitoring and elimination in small areas glue traps with pheromone dispensers can be used. Reducing chemical use of plant protection products, reduces negative impact on the environment.

Commitments:

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitment:

- Purchase and use as intended of biological plant protection products and materials and/or natural enemies of pests.

The minimum duration of the action is five years. If the operational programme is shorter than five years, the commitment is extended until completed in the subsequent operational programme.

This action cannot be combined with the measure “Biological agriculture’ under the RDP or the measure “Implementation of environmentally-friendly methods in gardening” under the Agri-environmental-climate programme.

Eligible costs

Actual costs (invoice) for the purchase of biological plant protection products and materials and/or natural enemies of pests.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual additional costs for the products and/or materials purchased, as compared to the costs of conventional plant protection methods, and the possible income foregone resulting from the action, and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Action 5.2.2: Optimisation of use of plant protection products

The purpose of the action -

To optimize use of plant protection products by using Decision support system.

Justification of the action

Justified application of plant protection products contributes to reducing use of plant protection products and thus risks of adverse effects on the environment. The decision support system, based on pheromone catch, controls the spread of harmful pests and allows applying plant protection products only as soon as the pest population has reached the critical threshold.

Commitments

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitment:

- Purchase and setting up of the products, materials and equipment needed to establish the decision support system (including appropriate pheromones and traps, forecast equipment, meteorological stations and required software) for optimising the spread of plant protection products.

Maintenance and use as intended of the decision support system installed during the whole monitoring period (minimum five years) is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

The minimum duration of the action is five years. If the operational programme is shorter than five years, the commitment is extended until completed in the subsequent operational programme.

This action cannot be combined with the measure “Biological agriculture’ under the RDP or the measure “Implementation of environmentally-friendly methods in gardening” under the Agri-environmental-climate programme, excluding the acquisition of meteorological stations and the necessary software.

Eligible costs

Actual costs (invoices) for the purchase of pheromones, traps, forecast equipment, meteorological stations and required software.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the products and/or materials purchased, as compared to the costs of conventional plant protection methods, and the possible income foregone resulting from the action, and the actual costs for the investment made, and the rules set out in Article 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

On the basis of the real cost of the meteorological station, and the rules set out in Article 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Action 5.2.3. : Establishment of ecological focus areas

The purpose of the action -

To improve the overall environmental level of the farm by creating ecologically focus areas.

Justification of the action

As set out in the provisions of the CAP, in addition to the single area payments, each household shall also receive a payment per hectare provided that it's agricultural practices benefiting for the climate and the environment.

Member states shall attribute 30% of direct payments to this "Greening" payment. In order to achieve the above-mentioned requirement, the three main measures projected are the following: a) crop diversification; b) maintaining existing permanent grassland; c) having ecological focus area (hereinafter referred to as EFA).

It is necessary to promote actions that reduce leaching of nutrients, humus and plant protection agents into the soil in households that display a considerably intensive use of arable land, which is common in the fruit and vegetable sector. The creation of EFA helps improve the overall environmental level especially what concerns biological diversity, improvement of soil and water quality, preservation of landscapes and fulfilment of objectives in climate change reduction and adjustment. The environment in the fruit and vegetable sector can be influenced in that way by creating an EFA:

- land lying fallow;
- landscape features (area under trees, alleys and stones that are protected under GAEC 7, SMR 2 or SMR 3, trees in groups, field copses of trees, ponds, ditches);
- areas with catch crops;
- field margins or buffer strips.

Fruit and vegetable producers shall be encouraged to create the above-mentioned EFA even if the producer is not obliged to create EFA according to the legislation.

Eligible measures

The member of a producer organisation shall create an EFA - land lying fallow, landscape features, areas with catch crops, field margins or buffer strips – pursuant to Article

46(2) a), c), d) and i) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1307/2013 and Chapter 11.4 of Cabinet of Ministers regulation No 126.

- 1) If member of producer organization according to the legislation are not required to create an EFA for greening requirements while applying to single area and greening payment, it is necessary to establish EFA corresponding to at least 2% of the arable land of the holding.
- 2) If member of a producer organisation according to the legislation is required to create an EFA for greening requirements while applying to single area and greening payment, it is necessary to establish EFA corresponding to at least 7% of the arable of the holding.

Commitments

The member of a producer organisation shall implement the requirement of creating an EFA - land lying fallow, landscape features, areas with catch crops, field margins or buffer strips - pursuant to Article 46 (2) a), c), d) and i) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1307/2013 and Chapter 11.4 of Cabinet of Ministers regulation No 126 if:

- member of producer organization according to the legislation are not required to create an EFA for greening requirements while applying to single area and greening payment, it is necessary to establish EFA corresponding to at least 2% of the arable land of the holding;
- member of a producer organisation according to the legislation is required to create an EFA for greening requirements while applying to single area and greening payment, it is necessary to establish EFA corresponding to at least 7% of the arable land of the holding.

The measure EFAs does not have any financial support under NEF.

Eligible costs

No

Calculation of the amount of aid:

No

Action 5.2.4. : Plant analysis

The purpose of the action -

To optimize the use of fertilizer according to the results of plants analysis.

Justification of the action

Fertilization of crops is done on the basis of the fertilization plan that has been prepared taking into account the studies of soil agro-chemical investigation or soil fertility analysis and the estimated amount of nutrients that particular crop needs. However, it must be noted that the doses of additional fertilizers indicated in the fertilization plan are approximate and therefore during split application of fertilizers the crop often receives higher doses than it needs at a respective development stage. Results of the plant analysis can be used in order to determine more precise doses of the additional fertilization and to reduce the amount of mineral fertilizers that is used. The plant analysis is the most appropriate method to determine the concentration of nutrients in a crop. It is particularly useful in cases when parts of plants show visual symptoms of a possible malnutrition though in reality there can be another reason caused by pest, disease, inappropriate soil humidity regime or adverse weather damage.

Commitments

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitment:

- Carrying out of plant analysis (leaves and stem) in accredited laboratories

Eligible costs

Actual costs (invoices) of plant analysis and sending samples to the laboratory.

Calculation of the amount of support:

Based on actual costs laid down in Article 34 of the Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Action 5.2.5. : Establishment of mineral nitrogen

The purpose of the action -

To optimize nitrogen use based on accredited laboratory soil analysis.

Justification of the action

In order to protect agricultural products and environment from nitrogen pollution, it is of utmost importance to set an optimal level of nitrogen use. The amount of the projected harvest, nitrogen outputs, soil organic matter, nitrogen usage coefficient in the organic fertilizers applied and other factors are taken into account when determining the necessary amount of nitrogen for each crop. Another important criterion is the content of mineral nitrogen in the soil during the renewal phase of the vegetative period. This variable is affected by a number of different factors, such as snow thickness, precipitation amounts during the autumn-winter season, air temperature, the period between the end of the vegetative phase and its renewal, granulometric composition of the soil etc. Knowing the content of mineral nitrogen in the soil of a specific field during the renewal phase of the vegetative period allows introducing reasonable corrections for the nitrogen necessary by either increasing or decreasing it.

In order to determine the amount of mineral nitrogen necessary in a particular field, the following actions should be carried out: taking soil samples in the 0-60 cm layer with the help of specific probes and delivering them to the laboratory in special cool bags; testing the samples in an accredited laboratory; processing the results with mathematical formulas, and applying recommended corrections to the necessary amount of nitrogen.

Commitments

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitments:

- determine the content of mineral nitrogen (ammonium and nitrate) in the soil (0-60 cm layer) in a specific field or fields in early spring or during the period of vegetation;
- fertilize crops corresponding to the nitrogen content in the soil during the renewal phase of the vegetative period;
- provide information about the coordinates of the sampling points, laboratory test reports, and calculations concerning the corrections in the amount of fertilization necessary.

Eligible costs

Costs for sampling carried out by an accredited laboratory, conducting analysis, and consulting services for calculating the amount of mineral nitrogen and correcting the nitrogen level necessary.

Calculation of the amount of support:

Based on actual costs laid down in Article 34 of the Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Action 5.2.6. Portable measuring instruments or sets for determining the chemical composition of soil and water

The purpose of the action -

To optimize nitrogen use based on analysis results of portable measuring instruments or sets of chemical composition of soil and water.

Justification of the action:

While fruit and vegetable growers carry out agrochemical research of the soil and leaf analysis, the calculated dose of fertilizer efficiency is dependent on the actual soil or water acidic reaction (pH), total salt concentration (EC) and the nutrient content in the soil or irrigation water. The pH and the EC of the irrigation water to be used depend on the adherence of the individual elements to the plant, the maximum fertilizer dose and the most appropriate choice of micro-nutrient chelate form. In order to quickly determine these indicators, portable measuring instruments or their kits (portable labs for multi-ion detection) are used. Using such measuring instruments helps to clarify the required fertilizer dose and prevents the inefficient, excessive or unbalanced use of fertilizers, both in open fields and in greenhouses.

Commitments:

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitment:

- portable measuring instruments or sets purchase and setting up.
Maintaining, using and calibrating the equipment during its whole monitoring period (minimum five years) is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

Eligible costs:

Actual costs (invoices) for purchasing portable measuring instruments or sets of chemical composition of soil and water.

Calculation of the aid amount:

Based on actual costs laid down in Article 34 of the Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Action 5.2.7. Measure: precision farming

The purpose of the action -

To optimize use of plant protection products and plant fertilizers based on precise farming qualitative indicators.

Background:

Currently, under traditional agriculture, the countryside is considered as a fertility homogeneous area characterized by averages such as the average fertilizer per hectare, without taking into account the specificities of each location. In order to minimize the environmental effects of farming, each field should be perceived as heterogeneous, consisting of different parts with different plant protection, fertilizer needs, etc. Using equipment and machinery (including unmanned aerials for rural video surveillance) equipped with the Global Positioning System (hereinafter - GPS) that detects, analyses and responds appropriately to changes in qualitative characteristics of the area, to reduce the over-fertilization of certain areas, overdose of plant

protection chemicals and other unwanted actions, which in turn would reduce the adverse effects of agricultural activity on the environment and climate change.

Commitments:

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitment:

- ensure the use of plant fertilizers and plant protection products in accordance with the data of each heterogeneous field recorder in the GPS system;
- purchase and setting up of new GPS-equipped equipment and equipment (including unmanned aerials for field surveillance).

Maintaining and using of investments during its whole monitoring period (minimum five years) is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

Eligibility is limited. Investments in their monitoring period of five years after their acquisition should demonstrate consumption cuts of a source of environmental pollution (fertilizers, plant protection products) at least 15%, certified by a qualified entity or an expert, based on the technical specification of the equipment. A lower energy consumption reduction of at least 7% over the aforementioned period is also acceptable if the investment provides for other environmental benefits.

Eligible costs:

Actual costs (invoices) for GPS-equipped equipment and equipment (including unmanned aerials for field surveillance).

Calculation of the aid amount:

Based on the actual cost of GPS-equipped devices and requirements laid down in Article 34 of the Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Action 5.2.8. : Introduction of natural methods of plant pollination

The purpose of the action -

Maintenance or restoration of biodiversity of the local flora by use of pollinating insects.

Justification of the action

Introduction of pollinating insects, such as bees and bumblebees, into planted areas contributes to the maintenance or restoration of biodiversity of local flora.

Commitments

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitments:

Purchase or rent, setting up and use as intended (use of natural methods of plant pollination) of hives of pollinating insects.

Eligible costs

Actual costs (invoice) or rent for the purchase of hives of pollinating insects.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the hives and other materials and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Demarcation with RDP:

<i>RDP EAFRD measures</i>	<i>Environmental program</i>	<i>Demarcation</i>
“Investments in fixed assets”	Action 5.2.2: Optimisation of use of plant protection products	Demarcation between EAFRD and EAGF administrative procedures will provide that the support granted in 2014-2020 RDP in the fruit and vegetable sector will not overlap with the aid granted by this programme.
	Action 5.2.6. : portable measuring instruments or sets for determining the chemical composition of soil and water	
	Action 5.2.7. Measure: precision farming	

5.3. Air pollutant and GHG emissions reductions

Action 5.3.1. : Prevention of heat loss in covered structures

The purpose of the action -

To reduce heat loss and CO₂ emissions by purchasing and setting up more thermal insulating greenhouse flooring and thermal screens.

Justification of the action

Heat loss may occur due to old or damaged flooring of a greenhouse. In this case, more fuel is required to provide plants with an optimal temperature in the period of vegetation. Two main ways to reduce heat loss from greenhouse and, thus, energy use and CO₂ emissions associated with greenhouse heating, is to change the greenhouse flooring or to set up thermal screens. According to research, depending on the type and material of thermal screen set up, heat loss in winter months may be reduced by 30-60%.

Commitments

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitments:

- Purchase and setting up of a new, more thermal insulating greenhouse flooring in replacement of the existing one;
- Purchase and setting up of greenhouse thermal screens.

In both cases, the beneficiary of the support must ensure the maintenance and the use as intended of the investment installed during the whole depreciation period of the new equipment/structures purchased (minimum five years). This is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

Eligibility for support is limited. Investment that allow for an energy saving by at least 15%, as attested by the technical specifications provided by an expert. A lower minimum reduction of at least 7% in energy use might be acceptable, provided that the investment is expected to bring for at least one additional environmental benefit, such as a reduction in the emission of air pollutants or GHG (Greenhouse Gas Emission).

Eligible costs

Costs (invoices) related to the investment made for the purchase of greenhouse cover and heat screens, setting up and designing costs.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the investment made and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Where investments are replaced, the residual value of the investments replaced must be:

- (a) added to the operational fund of the producer organisation; or
- (b) subtracted from the cost of the replacement.

Action 5.3.2. : Efficient use of fuel in covered areas

The purpose of the action -

To increase fuel efficiency in covered areas by purchasing and setting up of a greenhouse heat storage tanks.

Justification of the action

In order to maintain even air temperature during the vegetative period, a greenhouse must be heated day-and-night. In spring, the weather gets warmer and temperature in greenhouses sharply increases; therefore, temperature of the water used for heating should be sharply reduced. Heating system runs a large amount of water, thus it is impossible to reduce temperature of the water immediately. One of the possible solutions is setting up of heat storage tanks. Namely, when in sunny weather conditions air temperature in a greenhouse increases, a part of the water circulating in the greenhouse heating system runs into a special heat storage tanks (special container) with its large size and heat preservation properties preventing the water from cooling. In the evening, the air temperature drops and water from the heat storage tanks is pumped back into the heating system, and thus no additional fuel is required for raising air temperature in the greenhouse. The setting up of heat storage tanks in greenhouses can therefore contribute to reducing the use of energy for heating.

Commitments

The support is granted if a producer organization has undertaken such commitments:

- Purchase and setting up of a greenhouse heat storage tanks. Maintenance and use as intended of the heat storage tanks installed during its whole monitoring period (minimum five years) is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

Eligibility for support is limited. Heat storage tanks that allows saving energy by at least 15%, as attested by the technical specifications provided by an expert. A lower minimum

reduction of at least 7% in energy use might be acceptable and calculated during the monitoring period in comparison to the situation before, provided that the investment is expected to bring other environmental benefits, such as a reduction in the emission of air pollutants.

Eligible costs

Costs related to the investment made on the purchase of the greenhouse heat buffer, its setting up and the designing costs (invoices).

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the investment made and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Where investments are replaced, the residual value of the investments replaced must be:

- (a) added to the operational fund of the producer organisation; or
- (b) subtracted from the cost of the replacement.

Action 5.3.3 Measure: the use of renewable energy

The purpose of the action -

To reduce the use of fossil fuels in covered areas by replacing existing fossil fuel power plants with ones that use renewable energy sources for energy production.

Justification of the action:

Renewable energy use, instead of using non-renewable energy, is one of the basic conditions for sustainable rural development.

As the cultivation of vegetables (especially covered areas) is a very energy consuming, it is necessary to take measures to replace existing fossil fuel power plants with ones that use renewable energy sources for energy production.

At the same time, it should be taken into account that promoting the use of biomass (wood fuel) leads to increased dust emissions to air, which adversely affects human health. Therefore, the purchase and setting up of equipment that produces lower dust emissions is important. At the beginning of 2017, the European Commission has adopted Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from combustion plants with medium-level capacity, which requirements will be taken over by the end of 2017 by Latvian legislation. As the new directive provides for stricter emission limit values for combustion plants with a rated thermal input of 1 - 50 MW, an operator should, with the replacement of an existing set up before 20 December 2018, comply with the requirements of this Directive, which, depending on the nominal capacity of the installation will come into force in 2025 and 2030.

Commitments:

Aid is granted if the producer organization has undertaken the following commitments:

- the purchase and setting up of new renewable energy equipment, and the costs of maintaining and using it throughout the monitoring period. When purchasing equipment with nominal heat input from 1 MW, in the period until December 20, 2018, when wood fuel is to be used, it is necessary to set up such equipment, which will ensure that the regulatory requirements regarding the prevention, limitation and control of emissions of air pollutants from combustion plants will

meet the thresholds, which will come into force in 2025 (for plants with a capacity of 5 to 50 MW) and 2030 (for setting up with a capacity of 1 to 5 MW).

The maintenance and use of the renewable energy equipment during the monitoring period (minimum 5 years) is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

Eligibility for aid is limited. The installed energy equipment during its monitoring period must ensure a reduction of GHG emissions by at least 15% per year compared to the average GHG emissions of the last three calendar years of the existing energy equipment. The calculation of GHG emission reductions is made by the applicant of the project or the external expert in the field of energy. In order to ensure the reliability of the calculation result, it must be justified by a detailed, reasoned and clearly traceable calculation process.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the investment made and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Where investments are replaced, the residual value of the investments replaced must be:

- (a) added to the operational fund of the producer organisation; or
- (b) subtracted from the cost of the replacement.

Action 5.3.4.: Cogeneration

The purpose of the action -

To reduce the use of fossil fuels and increase the efficiency of energy use by replacing an existing energy production equipment with a renewable resources cogeneration.

Background:

One of the most effective ways of producing energy is the use of cogeneration equipment. Co-generation is the simultaneous production of electrical (or mechanical) energy and thermal energy in a single thermodynamic cycle. It is especially advantageous to use it in production processes that require the simultaneous use of electricity and heat.

Commitments:

Aid is granted if the producer organization has undertaken the following commitment:

- purchase and setting up of renewable resources cogeneration equipment.

The cost of maintaining and using a renewable resources cogeneration system during the monitoring period (at least five years) is a mandatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

Eligibility for aid is limited. The installed energy equipment during its monitoring period must ensure a reduction of GHG emissions by at least 15% per year compared to the average GHG emissions of the last three calendar years of the existing energy equipment. The calculation of GHG emission reductions is made by the applicant of the project or the external expert in the field of energy. In order to ensure the reliability of the calculation result, it must be justified by a detailed, reasoned and clearly traceable calculation process.

Eligible costs:

Costs (invoices) for investments purchase, setting up and designing costs of new renewable resources cogeneration units if the installed capacity does not exceed the amount required by the producer organizations for consumption of recognise products.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the investment made and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Where investments are replaced, the residual value of the investments replaced must be:

(a) added to the operational fund of the producer organisation; or

(b) subtracted from the cost of the replacement.

Demarcation with RDP:

<i>RDP EAFRD measures</i>	<i>Environmental program</i>	<i>Demarcation</i>
“Investments in fixed assets”	Action 5.3.1. : Prevention of heat loss in covered structures	Demarcation between EAFRD and EAGF administrative procedures will provide that the support granted in 2014-2020 RDP in the fruit and vegetable sector will not overlap with the aid granted by this programme.
	Action 5.3.2. : Efficient use of fuel in covered areas	
	Action 5.3.3. Measure: the use of renewable energy	
	Action 5.3.4.: Cogeneration	

5.4. Prevention of Waste Production and Improvement of Waste Management

Action 5.4.1. : Reduction of plant cultivation waste

The purpose of the action -

To reduce amount of plant cultivation waste by shredding and chipping plant remains, by purchasing bio-degradable materials and substrates, as well as creating composting areas.

Justification of the action

In order to increase the amount of light plants cultivated in covered structures, the plants are mulched with white polythene and tied with a synthetic strap, which do not decompose and every year result in a lot of waste. Therefore, it is required to promote the use of bio-degradable material for both mulching and tying, which by the end of season can be composted together with plant remains, as well as the use of coconut substrate in covered areas.

When shaping tree crowns the branches removed can be shredded, if they are not source of the spread of diseases and pests. Using chipping equipment or shredder helps reduce the amount of waste produced, as the shredded branches can be used as mulching material for maintaining favourable humidity, nurturing soil and reducing the need for herbicides. This practice is closely related to biological and integrated cultivation system.

Every year, by the end of the season of cultivation of open-air and greenhouse plants, a large amount of waste is produced, made up of plant remains and/or mineral wool used as plant substratum. Afterwards planters have to re-utilise the mineral wool or to recycle it. In order to reduce the amount of waste by the end of the growing season, the mineral wool substratum in greenhouses should be replaced with bio-degradable substratum (e.g., coconut fibre or wood fibre) and plant remains should be composted.

All the above-mentioned practices can contribute to reducing the production of waste associated with the production of fruits and vegetables.

Commitments

Aid is granted if the producer organization has undertaken the following commitments:

- 1) Purchase and use of bio-degradable mulch polythene and/or bio-degradable tying material.
- 2) Purchase and use of bio-degradable substratum (coconut fibre) at least two seasons.
- 3) Putting in place a composting installation and use of the compost produced. The use of the compost produced is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.
- 4) Purchase and use of shredder equipment and use of the mulching material produced. The use of the mulching material produced is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support. This applies to equipment used for shredding plant remains.

The minimum duration of the action is 5 years. If the operational programme is shorter than 5 years, the commitment is extended until completed in the subsequent operational programme.

In the case of the commitments (3) and (4), the beneficiary of the support must ensure the maintenance of the composting installation chipping or plant remain shredding equipment during the whole monitoring period of the new equipment purchased (minimum 5 years) is an obligatory requirement that is not eligible for support.

Eligible costs

Commitments (1) and (2): Difference between the price of biodegradable material and the standard material (invoices).

Commitment (3): costs (invoices) related to investments, amongst others, establishing areas for an organic compost and composting of waste produced on the farm and purchase of composting equipment.

Commitment (4): costs (invoices) related to investment on chipping and plant remain shredding equipment purchases.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the investment made and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Where investments are replaced, the residual value of the investments replaced must be:

- (a) added to the operational fund of the producer organisation; or
- (b) subtracted from the cost of the replacement.

Demarcation with RDP:

<i>RDP EAFRD measures</i>	<i>Environmental program</i>	<i>Demarcation</i>
“Investments in fixed assets”	Action 5.4.1. : Reduction of plant cultivation waste	Demarcation between EAFRD and EAGF administrative procedures will provide that the support granted in 2014-2020 RDP in the fruit and vegetable sector will

		not overlap with the aid granted by this programme.
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5.5. Activities supporting environmental actions

Action 5.5.1 - Training and technical assistance supporting successful implementation of environmental actions

The purpose of the action -

To increase personnel qualification for the successful implementation of environmentally friendly measures.

Justification of the action

The implementation and effectiveness of certain environmental actions selected under the National Framework and aimed at a producer organisation or its members shall be supported by additional activities (training and consultations) in order to provide the producer organisation with qualified personnel.

Commitments

Aid is granted if the producer organization has undertaken the following commitments:

- Implementing at least one of the environmental actions indicated in chapters 5.1 to 5.4.;
- Using additional qualified personnel to perform activities of training, advice and/or technical assistance, which complement one or more of the environmental actions implemented and are targeted to reinforce the effects of these actions.

The operational programme must indicate the specific tasks that that the additional qualified personnel is required to perform.

Eligible costs

Costs related to the working time spent by the additional qualified personnel for performing the planned tasks related to training, advice and/or technical assistance activities (invoices in case of contract with an external service); detailed documents showing the actual number of working hours and the specific tasks performed, in case where the producer organisation has employed its own employees or member producers.

Calculation of the amount of aid:

According to the actual costs for the training, advice and/or technical assistance services used and the rules set out in Article 34 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013.

Demarcation with RDP:

<i>RDP EAFRD measures</i>	<i>Environmental program</i>	<i>Demarcation</i>
Knowledge transfer and information measures	Measure 5.5.1: Training and advisory services for successful	Demarcation between EAFRD

	implementation of the environmental measures	and EAGF Administrative procedures will provide that the 2014-2020 RDP in the fruit and vegetable sector will not overlap with the aid granted by this programme.
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6. DURATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

In the case where the National Framework provides for an environmental action that is similar to an agri-environmental-climate or a biological diversity measure included under the RDP, the same duration will apply as that determined for the above-mentioned actions under the RDP.

In the case where the duration of the operational programme is shorter (i.e. 3 or 4 years) or longer than the duration referred to above, the Producer Organisation will be obliged to continue the environmental action concerned in its subsequent operational programme, if this is necessary for attaining the duration applying for similar agri-environmental-climate or biological diversity measures under the RDP, except for duly justified reasons, and in particular based on the results of the midterm evaluation of the operational programme provided for in Article 57(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2017/891.

This duration requirement is clearly indicated in the description of the environmental actions concerned. In the future, where relevant, this requirement will also apply to other environmental actions newly included in the National Framework.

**The Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 1056 of 15 September 2009
“Requirements for integrated growing, storing and labeling of agricultural products and
the control procedure”.**

1. Crops shall be grown in compliance with their growing technology.
2. The fertilization plan shall be drawn up for each crop based on results of agri-chemical research of soil on each field or soil test results that are not older than seven years. Agri-chemical tests on soil shall be carried out by an accredited laboratory, which has been accredited for a definite area by the national accreditation institution or by the accreditation institution in another European Union Member State or a country of the European Economic Area. The fertilization plan for agricultural land in vulnerable zones shall be drawn up in compliance with regulatory acts on water and soil protection from pollution by nitrates caused by agricultural activity. Crops shall be fertilized within a time span that is most suitable from agronomic point of view, using fertilizers with content of plant nutrients, satisfying the needs, calculated in the fertilization plan.
3. In order to protect useful organisms, the habitats of the useful organisms shall be preserved as far as possible – for example, separately growing bush clusters, old trees, stone piles – other measures shall also be carried out to promote conservation of biological diversity.
4. Upon laying down the necessary plant protection measures:
 - a) in the period of active vegetation, a specific field shall be inspected on regular basis, carrying out observations of the spreading dynamics of harmful organisms and plant development, everything shall be documented;
 - b) the general notification system or other available information on occurrence of a harmful organism and prognosis of its development shall be used;
 - c) the information, available in Latvia and published on the website of the Service, on hazard thresholds of pests and disease,s shall be used to be able to make a decision on application of plant protection means to restrict the spreading of harmful organisms.
5. As far as possible, adequate and effective biological, mechanical or agri-technological methods shall be applied to restrict the spreading of harmful organism. Chemical plant protection products, registered in Latvia, shall be applied only when the abovementioned methods have not yielded any results or such a level of crop damage has been reached that the application of the said methods will result in loss of the harvest.
6. To restrict the spreading of harmful organisms, warehouses, storages, equipment, machinery and tools shall be cleaned.
7. The smallest possible registered dosage of the plant protection product shall be applied or the product shall be applied on separate places on the field, making assessment whether the risk level is acceptable for vegetation and whether it does not increase the development of population of harmful organisms, resistant to plant protection products.
8. To avoid the development of resistance of a harmful organism, a respective plant protection product shall be applied, taking into consideration the indication on the label on restricting the risk of resistance.

9. A system of records shall be put in place on a farm, where a specific information per each field shall be included:
 - 9.1. name or number of the field and area;
 - 9.2. species and variety of the crop cultivated as well as an intermediate plant;
 - 9.3. the measures taken to prepare seed or planting material. In case a mordant has been used then its name, dosage, the volume, treated with it and the date of treatment shall be indicated;
 - 9.4. The date of sowing or planting, sowing (planting rate) or sowing (planting) density;
 - 9.5. Agri-technical measures and the date they were carried out;
 - 9.6. Type and dosages, in physical units of products, used for fertilization, basic content of mineral fertilizers and the date they were worked into soil;
 - 9.7. The date of soil liming or gypsuming and the dosage of the material used, in physical units if such a measure has been implemented;
 - 9.8. Spreading dynamics of the harmful organism and the development stage of the crop;
 - 9.9. Mechanical, biological, agri-technical or chemical plant protection measures used, also indicating the name and dosage of the plant protection product, the treated area, the date of treatment and the treatment justification.
 - 9.10. Harvesting date and the yield;
 - 9.11. Other activities linked to the growing of the crop (for example, crop nourishment diagnostics, watering).
10. The documents confirming the purchase of planting material, seeds, plant protection products, fertilizers, liming and gypsuming materials, plant passports or labels, seed certificates as well as other mentioned recording data shall be stored for three years. The data of agri-chemical research or results of soil test analysis shall be stored until the repeated results of research or results of soil test analysis are received.
11. On one and the same field, legumes shall be sown not more than once in three years.
12. Upon growing of white head cabbage, red and savoy cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Pe-tsai and Pak-choi cabbage, kohlrabi, Swedish turnips, turnips, radish and garden radish (hereinafter referred to as “vegetables of mustard family”) crop rotation shall be followed. In the sowings where crop rotation is not observed, intertilled crops shall be grown, except crops of mustard family.
13. Cucumbers, marrow squash, custard squash, pumpkins, beets, leafy vegetables, onions, garlic, leek, tomatoes, paprika, carrots, celeries, parsley, parsnips, dills, and caraway seeds shall be grown in one and the same open field not more than once in three years.
14. Carrots, celeries, parsley, parsnips, dills, and caraway seeds shall not be grown on the field where potatoes were grown the previous year, and on the field that has been infected by nematodes *Meloidogyne* spp., *Pratylenchus* spp. and *Heterodera* spp.
15. To grow vegetables of mustard family, beets, carrots, celeries, parsley, parsnip, dills and caraway seeds the certified and mordant treated seeds or standard seeds shall be used.
16. To grow leafy vegetables, tomatoes, paprika, onion, garlic and leek the certified or standard seed shall be used.
17. Strawberries shall be grown at one and the same place not more than four consecutive years. Strawberries shall be planted repeatedly at the same place not earlier than after three year interval. The restriction does not apply to the fields where strawberries are grown in sacks and substratum is being replaced respectively.

18. For plantings of fruit trees and berry bushes, the tested standard or certified propagation material shall be used. For plantings of strawberries the tested standard or certified planting material shall be used or home grown planting material that has been taken from a mother plant, planted specially for this purpose.