

## **INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AGRO-ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS AS TOOLS TO INFLUENCE THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

The agricultural sector is one of the main sectors for achieving economic growth and it is considered one of the most significant factors contributing to global food security.

The importance of the agrarian sector is determined by the fact that it simultaneously combines the preservation, maintenance and improvement of the ecological quality of agricultural land and at the same time provides economic opportunities for work, raw materials for other industries, securing foreign income from the export of surpluses and most importantly, the great advantage of added value in the various production processes.

The effective implementation of agro-ecological practices and innovations as tools for impacting the agrarian sector is imperative for the successful and consistent development of agriculture. The benefits of implementing more efficient agro-ecological practices and innovations in agricultural holdings are numerous.

The main goal of the project is to identify, analyze and evaluate current problems accompanying the effectiveness of agro-ecological practices and innovations that have an impact on the country's agrarian sector.

Special attention will be paid in disseminating the results to stakeholders outside the scientific community and more specifically decision makers, farmer organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In Bulgaria, public participation in decision-making processes is a priority instrument of influence in agricultural sector policies. The implementation of EU legislation in Bulgaria and also the complex nature of agricultural issues requires building a bridge between scientists and decision makers and also - full integration of stakeholders and civil society. This requires raising awareness of the relevant sectors and strengthening partnerships and networks of stakeholder organizations to enable them to participate fully in the work of the public advisory bodies.

The results of the project will meet these needs as stakeholders (decision makers, farmers, NGOs) will have at their disposal scientifically based information on the potential of agriculture for the economic development of Bulgaria, guidelines and pathways for a fuller use of the agricultural potential in the economic development of the country. Users can be:

- representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, State Fund of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy;
- farmers, farmers' organizations and NGOs.