



Agricultural Paying Agency

august 2010

Dear friends!

Slovakia is mainly a rural country, where the production sectors, such as agriculture, forestry and traditional food production play a significant role in the wealth and attractiveness of the Slovak countryside.

The farmer and the forester, maintain the development of the rural country, the producer of quality products ensures bread and prosperity to the country.

Neither the tourist nor the investor would be attracted by a devastated and unpopulated country.

Through its actions, the Agricultural paying agency contributes to the prosperity of the Slovak Republic and promotes the competitiveness of a good farmer. Only for direct payments, the agency paid off in the year 2009 an amount of 364.1 million Euros. For the support of the common market, the agency paid off in the year 2009 an amount of 39.8 million Euros which is 5 times more than in the year 2008. For the state aid including national supports, an amount of 22.4 million Euros was paid off, which is 146% more than the year before. From a total number of 8 989 approved projects, APA has already until 30 July 2010 contracted 4342 projects for a total approved grant of 1.14 billion Euros.

The European Union common agricultural policy is faced with three important questions which will be raised during the discussions concerning its role, on the one hand, and the setting up of its future structure, on the other hand. Namely, the following issues will be addressed: How can we contribute to the stability of agriculture- food industry- forestry sector and rural communities when instability prevails in the markets? How can we ensure efficiency and equal division of supports? What is the best problem approach as for instance the conservation of the environment and country?

The Agricultural paying agency strives to answer these questions in order to plead for the interests of the Slovak agriculture and country within the framework of EU CAP.





FORMS OF SUPPORT

The Agricultural Paying Agency (hereinafter referred to as “agency”) has been established pursuant to the Act No. 473/2003 Coll. On the Agricultural Paying Agency, on support of business activities and amendment of some acts with effect of the 1st December 2003. Currently, the agency implements programmes and support schemes in the fields of agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries, as well as in the rural development on territory of the Slovak Republic by providing financial resources from the Slovak Republic state budget and from the EU funds in compliance with the legislation in force by course of law No. 543/2007 Coll. On the activity of the state administration authorities in providing support in the agriculture and rural development with effect from the 1st January 2008. The accordance of the accreditation for the support provision from the EU funds was realised in compliance with the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1663/1995 and since 16.10.2006 by course of the Commission regulation (EC) n. 885/2006.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2007 – 2013

The policy of the rural development as a part of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union serves for achieving of sustainable rural development.

OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

The rural development is supported by the countries of the Community during the years 2007 – 2013 from the European Agricultural Fund for the Rural Development (EAFRD) with the following objectives:

- Improving competitiveness of the agricultural, food and forestry
- Improvement of the environment and countryside
- Increasing quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

The programme document to draw financial resources from the EAFRD is the rural development programme.

Among **priorities of the SR Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013** belong the support of modernization, innovation and effectiveness of the agricultural and forestry holdings, sustainment and protection of the countryside environmental values, preservation of the cultural heritage, the creation of job opportunities, improvement of the proficiency of the rural population and the enhancement of the life quality in rural areas.

In order to improve the environment and the countryside it is necessary to avoid the water contamination and the soil degradation through appropriate farming procedures and preventive measures for the improvement of the ecological stability of the countryside, and prevention of the reduction of the habitats of wild animals and plants, as well as the reduction of the valuable biotopes.

In order to improve the quality of life in the countryside and retention of the population in the rural areas and the creation of job opportunities, diversification of economic activities, the renewal and development of the community infrastructure.

AREAS OF SUPPORT

The rural development programme specifies regions within the Slovak Republic that are included in the convergence objective. It concerns the regions: Western Slovakia (Nitra region, Trenčín region, Trnava region), Central Slovakia (Banská Bystrica region, Žilina region) and Eastern Slovakia (Košice region, Prešov region). The Bratislava region is supported within „other areas“. The Bratislava region is not covered by the measure 3.4.1 Basic services for the rural population and 3.4.2 Renewal and Development of the villages, development of amenities and services It is not covered even by the measure 3.1 Diversification into non-agricultural activities within which are supported regions Bratislava II, III, IV, Malacky, Senec, Čunovo, Jarovce and Rusovce under the state aidscheme.

The difference in the activity support within the convergence objective areas and other areas is in different share of funding eligible expenditures from the public resources.

The AXES and MEASURES for the realisation of the objectives of the Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013

AXIS 1 IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY SECTOR

Measure 1.1	Modernisation of agricultural holdings
Measure 1.2	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products
Measure 1.3	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry
Measure 1.4	Improving the economic value of forests
Measure 1.5	Producer groups
Measure 1.6	Vocational training and information actions
Measure 1.7	Use of advisory services





AXIS 2 IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND COUNTRYSIDE

Measure 5.3.2.1	Natural handicaps payments in mountain areas and payments in other areas with handicaps
Measure 5.3.2.1.2	Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC
Measure 5.3.2.1.3	Agri-environmental payments
Measure 5.3.2.1.4	Animal welfare payments
Measure 5.3.2.2.1	First afforestation of agricultural land
Measure 5.3.2.2.2	Natura 2000 payments – forestry land
Measure 5.3.2.2.3	Forest – environment payments
Measure 5.3.2.2.4	Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions

AXIS 3 QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS AND DIVERSIFICATION OF THE RURAL ECONOMY

Measure 3.1	Diversification of non-agricultural activities
Measure 3.2	Encouragement of rural tourism activities
Measure 3.3	Training and information
Measure 3.4.1	Basic services for the rural population
Measure 3.4.2	Village renewal and development, development of amenities and services
Measure 3.5	Skill acquisition, animation and implementation of local development strategies

AXIS 4 LEADER

Measure 4.1	Implementation of integrated local development strategies
Measure 4.2	Implementation of cooperation projects
Measure 4.3	Running the local action group

THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC FISHERIES OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 2007 – 2013

Besides the rural development programme, the Agricultural Paying Agency also implements the SR FOP 2007 – 2013 (hereinafter referred to as „FOP“). FOP provides many opportunities to all potential beneficiaries from recipients who are pisciculturists, processors of fishery products and aquaculture.

FUNDING AND OBJECTIVES

In order to fulfil the main objective of the FOP which is the sustainable and competitive fisheries sector, a public allowance for the period 2007 – 2013 has been approved in an amount of 18 922 750 EUR.

Specific objectives of FOP

- modernization, innovation and restructuring of the aquaculture
- increase of the competitiveness of the plant sites processing products of fisheries and aquaculture with the special emphasis given to the processing of home-made production
- market development in the sector of fisheries

FOP 2007 - 2013 SUPPORT SCOPE

The FOP within the SR territory refers to the areas of the Convergence objective and to the areas out of Convergence objective in compliance with the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1198/2006 of 27th July 2006 on the European Fisheries Fund. The areas of the Convergence objective are: Western Slovakia (Trnava region, Nitra region, Trenčín region), Central Slovakia (Banská Bystrica region, Žilina region) and Eastern Slovakia (Košice region, Prešov region).

The areas outside the Convergence objective include the area of Bratislava region.

AXES AND MEASURES FOR REALIZATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SR FOP 2007 – 2013

The public grant composed of the European Fisheries Fund and the SR state budget covers following priority axes and measures:

Priority axis 2	Aquaculture, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products Measure n° 2.1 Investments in aquaculture Measure n° 2.2 Investments in processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products
Priority axis 3	Measures of common interest Measure n° 3.1 Organisation of producers Measure n° 3.2 Support and development of new market
Priority axis 5	Technical assistance





DIRECT SUPPORTS

Slovak farmers have a possibility to apply for direct supports yearly. Conditions for the granting of direct supports are pursuant to the EU and SR legislation.

Direct payments are disbursed from the SR state budget and are refunded from the EU budget; additional direct payments are paid off from the SR state budget.

All information, legislation, forms and manuals to be filled in are published in the APA web site www.apa.sk within the part "Direct Supports Section".

LIST OF CURRENT DIRECT SUPPORTS

From the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)

- a) Single area payment scheme
- b) Payment for dairy cow
- c) Special payment for sugar
- d) Special payment for fruits and vegetables
- e) Transitional payment for tomatoes

From the Agricultural Fund for the Rural Development (EAFRD)

- a) Compensation allowance for the less favoured areas (LFA)
- b) Agro-environmental payments
- c) Payments for the areas of the European significance
- d) Payments for the animal welfare measure
- e) Payment for the first afforestation of the agricultural land
- f) Forest and environmental payments
- g) The support of the forest land at the areas of European significance

From the SR state budget – supplementary direct payments

- a) Supplementary payment for the area
- b) Support for hop
- c) Support for big livestock unit (VDJ)

CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING SUPPORTS

Single area payment in compliance with the §2 of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 20/2009 of the 14th January 2009 On the conditions for support in agriculture in form of direct payments, as amended, is granted to a single applicant for the area of agricultural land kept in the register of land blocks and units of land blocks with an area of at least 1ha, and this area may be constituted of several parts of one continuous block of land of one culture (arable land, permanent crops, gardens,

permanent pastures) on the area of at least 0.3 ha, which was by the 30th June 2003 managed and maintained in accordance with good agricultural and environmental conditions (Annex. No. 2 Government Regulation No. 20/2009 Coll. of 14th January 2009 concerning the conditions of providing support to agriculture in the form of direct payments, as amended).

In addition to these good agricultural and environmental conditions, the applicant is required to meet other conditions of cross-compliance (Annex. No. 3 Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 20/2009 of the 14th January 2009 On the conditions for support in agriculture as of direct payments as amended).

Payment for dairy cow in compliance with the §3 of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 20/2009 of the 14th January 2009 On the conditions for support in agriculture in form of direct payments, as amended, the applicant shall be granted with this payment if:

- a) Submits a request for the single area payment
- b) Operates in less favoured or vulnerable areas
- c) Has a registered farm for cattle raising in the central animal register
- d) He maintains the retention period of dairycow raising from 1st January to 31st August of the calendar year.

Special payment for sugar is paid to applicants in compliance with the §5 of the amended Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 20/2009 of the 14th January 2009 On conditions for support in agriculture in form of direct payments for the acreage of agricultural parcels on which the sugar-beet had been grown in the year 2005. The acreage of the agricultural land is determined according to the register of agricultural land, which was a part of the application for single area payment in 2005.

Special payment for sugar shall be granted to applicants who meet the conditions for granting a single area payment. The applicant is obliged to submit a contract for the supply of sugar beet from the marketing year 2005/2006, concluded in compliance with the special regulation. The contract needs not to be submitted, in case once it was submitted to the agency. In case the applicant in 2005 did not submit the application for the single area payment, the acreage of agricultural land shall be determined as a share of the quantities of beet referred to in the contract from the marketing year 2005/2006 and the reference crop 50 t / ha.

Special payments for fruit and vegetable is paid to applicants in compliance with the §6 of the amended Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 20/2009 of the 14th January 2009 On conditions for support in agriculture in form of direct payments for the acreage of fruits and vegetables being stated in 2007 in the Annex to the single payment application – the list of agricultural parcels.

Transitional payment for tomatoes is paid to the applicants in compliance with





the §7 of the amended Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 20/2009 of the 14th January 2009 On conditions for support in agriculture in form of direct payments according to the acreage of the grown tomatoes, at most according to the acreage stated in the contract with the accredited manufacturer. The applicant may conclude the contract personally or through a sales organization, of which the applicant is a member. After the harvest, the applicant is obliged to supply the first manufacturer with the quantity of tomatoes reaching at least the quantity which equals to the multiple of tomato acreage and a minimum harvest of 20 tons per ha.

Support for less favourable areas (LFA supports), in compliance with § 56 of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 499/2008 of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended, is granted to applicant farming on his own behalf on an area of at least 1ha of agricultural land in a less favoured area recorded in land blocks and parts of land blocks evidence. This land may be constituted of several parts of continuous land blocks of the concerned type of parcel of at least 0.3 ha of managed land by one applicant. The applicants shall commit himself to perform the agricultural activities in less favoured area for at least for 5 years beginning from the 1st payment of the compensation. This is not applied in case of farming business transferred to another entity. In order to be granted with support, the applicant has to fulfil requirements of the cross-compliance pursuant to paragraph 1 of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 499/2008 of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended.

Support for Agro-environmental measures in compliance with § 35 of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 499/2008 of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended, is granted to applicant for measures oriented to sustainable land use, breeding and preservation of threatened species and farm animal breeds which are raised for a long period of time within the Slovak territory. It is possible to grant a agro-environmental payment to the applicant in case the area or livestock falls under this measure, the applicant shall take a training course for the right fulfilment and realisation of the measures obligations until the end of the second year when he started fulfilling this requirements, observing the duties (at most 1,6 livestock per 1 ha of managed land of an agricultural undertaking and at least 0,3 livestock or horses referring to 1ha of permanent pastures conducted in the agro-environmental relation, when using fertilisers fulfils the conditions of water protection against the nitrate pollution from agricultural origins, does not use the sediments from the sewage tanks and bottom sediments at whole acreage of the area laid under obligation and farms, the applicant shall also keep records for monitoring and evaluation and on request submit them in the required structure.

The applicant can apply for the transformation of the obligation from RDP 2004-2006 into RDP 2007-2013. The agroenvironmental measure is focused on the realization of agricultural production processes compatible with the protection and improvement of the environment, country and natural resources.

In order to be granted with support, the applicant has to fulfil requirements of the cross-compliance pursuant to paragraph 1 of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 499/2008 of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended.

Support for Animal Welfare Measure in compliance with the paragraph 25 of the Slovak republic Government Regulation of the No. 499/ 2008 of the Coll. of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended is granted to the applicants with the application falling under this measure in compliance with the regulation as stated above and carries agricultural activities, also declares to keep dutin according to paragraph 25 article. 3. b), having registered stock animals in compliance with the § 25 paragraph 1 b) –d) in the Central Register of the animals, and arrange for himself or his employee an accredited training course on animal welfare at least by the end of the 2nd year of the commitment and training of the employees referring the animals coming under the submeasure in compliance with §25 paragraph 1, b) article 2, c) and d).

The objective of the support is to compensate the agricultural costs related to the stock raising methods improving the welfare of the animals.

In order to be granted with support, the applicant has to fulfil requirements of the cross-compliance pursuant to paragraph 1 of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 499/2008 of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended.

Payments for the first afforestation of agricultural land in compliance with the paragraph 11 of the Regulation of the Slovak republic Government No. 499/2008 of the Coll. of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended are granted to the applicants for the afforestation of agricultural land. Minimum supported continuous area of agricultural land is 0.5 ha and a maximum area for one applicant has not to exceed 10 ha. It is planned to support the foresting of 600ha of the agricultural land.

The payments for the first afforestation are paid for the agricultural land registered in land blocks and units of the land blocks, the land used for agricultural purposes for 2 previous years and the credit code of the soil-ecology unit falls into the 6th –9th rank. It is possible to apply for the payments for founding of the forest at the agricultural land, for maintenance of the forest land, and payment for the compensation of the loss of income following the finishing of the agricultural activities. In case the applicant manages simultaneously an agricultural land, he has to fulfil within the entire fading business conditions in compliance with paragraph 1a of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 499/2008 of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended.

Forest-environment payment in compliance with the paragraph 16 of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 499/ 2008 of the Coll. of the 26th November





2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended is granted to the applicants for registered forest land. This measure covers 2 sub-measures: conservation of the favourable status of the forest biotopes and the protection of selected bird species. The submeasure conservation of the favourable status of the forest biotopes is possible to realize on forest areas within the protected bird territories in which are located nests of threatened species of birds indicated by the State Protection of Nature of the Slovak Republic, on forest territories in case of they fall under the areas of European significance declared as protected territory or the zone of protected territory not included in the 5th degree of protection and the forest territories not included into continuous European scheme of protected territories

. Threatened species of birds are listed in the §17, section 3, of the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 499/2009 of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended. The submeasure protection of the biotope of selected bird species is possible to implement on forest territories within the declared protected bird territories in which are located nests of threatened species of birds indicated by the State Protection of Nature of the Slovak Republic.

It is planned to support 310 thousands ha of the forest land.

In order to be granted with support, the applicant has to fulfil requirements of the cross-compliance pursuant to paragraph 1 of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 499/2008 of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended.

The support of the forest land on areas of European significance in compliance with § 2 of the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak republic No. 499/2008 of the Coll. of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended is granted to the owner of the forest land of the acreage that equals at least 1ha enlisted in the register of forest land, who is obliged to meet the conditions of the regulation for 5 year period. The forest land enlisted in the register of the forest land has to be situated within the area of European significance at the 5th degree of protection where the intervention into forest vegetation and damage of the soil vegetation cover is forbidden. The applicant with the special conditions defined by the authority for protection of the nature allowing the intervention into forest land and damage of the soil vegetation cover, is not qualified for lodging a claim for support. It is planned to support 30 thousands ha of forest lands within the areas of the European significance of the 5th degree of protection. In case the applicant performs simultaneously an agricultural activity, he has to fulfil within the entire fading business conditions in compliance with paragraph 1a of the Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 499/2008 of the 26th November 2008 On conditions for granting aid under Rural Development Programme as amended.

Supplementary payment for area in compliance with the Government Regulation No. 114/2009 of 18th March 2009 On the conditions for providing support payments in

agriculture in the form of complementary national direct payments in the plant production is granted for the area of arable land, vineyards, orchards and hop gardens registered in the register of land blocks and parts of blocks with the acreage not less than 1 ha, and this area may be constituted of several parts of one continuous land block of one culture (of particular plots) on the area of at least 0.3 ha, and having been a part of utilised agricultural area which has been maintained in good agricultural and environmental conditions by 30th June 2003 (Annex 2 of the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 20/2009 of 14th January 2009 On the conditions for providing support to agriculture in the form of direct payments, as amended). The applicant is obliged to maintain the land in accordance with good agricultural and environmental conditions.

Payment for hops in compliance with the Government Regulation No. 114/2009 of 18th March 2009 On the conditions for providing support payments in agriculture as amended in the form of complementary national direct payments in the plant production is granted to the applicant for hop garden registered in the register of land blocks and parts of the land blocks by 31st December 2006, if the area reaches the acreage of at least 0.3 ha. In case the acreage claimed in the application for payment exceeds 305,13 ha, the payment is directly proportionally reduced according to the exceeded acreage. The applicant for payment is obliged to farm in compliance with good agricultural and environmental conditions (Annex 2 of the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 20/2009 of 14th January 2009 On the conditions for providing support to agriculture in the form of direct payments, as amended).

Payments for livestock units (VDJ)

The supports are provided to applicant in compliance with the amended Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 266/2007 of the Coll. of the 6th June 2007 On the conditions for support payments in agriculture in forms of supplementary national direct payments referred to big livestock units as amended is granted to applicant for at least one big livestock unit who raises dairy cows older than 24 months specified in the application for at least 3 months from the application submission; in case of sheep and goats over 12 months for 2 months since the application submission, i.e. the payment includes calves under 6 months, cattle from 6 to 24 months, bulls, oxen and heifers over 24 months, and also for individual reference quantity of milk.





COMMON MARKET ORGANIZATION

The common agricultural policy (CAP) can provide supports within Common Market Organization (CMO) for the measures aimed at: organization of the plant and animal commodities and support of export.

BASIC CLASSIFICATION OF ALLOWED FORMS OF SUPPORT OF THE COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION:

TRADE MECHANISMS	– export refunds for agricultural and processed agricultural products (Non Annex products)
PLANT COMMODITIES	– organization of market for plant commodities
ANIMAL COMMODITIES	– organization of market for animal commodities

BRIEF INFORMATION ON PARTICULAR SUPPORTS:

TRADE MECHANISMS

The export refunds - a form of subsidy granted to natural or legal entities holding an export license or certificate or advance fixing certificate and exporting certain agricultural and processed agricultural products to third countries.

The application of export refunds is aimed to compensate the difference between world prices and prices in the European Union and thus allow the export of agricultural products to third countries for the world market price.

The export refunds are paid either for the export of basic products (eggs, cheeses, poultry, sausage, sugar, milk and milk products and others) or processed products (confectionery, chocolate, pasta, etc.), having the export refund calculated according to the content of the basic products (sugar, milk, cereals and rice, eggs).

The amount of refunds is determined by the European Commission. **Currently export refunds are granted only to certain products from the sectors:** poultry meat, eggs, pork, beef breeding animals including livestock, processed products - only the proportion of eggs in processed product.

The system of trade mechanisms in addition to export refunds include the issue of import and export licenses for certain agricultural products, receiving financial guarantees, certification for reimbursement of Non-Annex I for processed agricultural products and inward processing.

PLANT COMMODITIES

Interventions - purchase, storage, sale (cereals, sugar) - a tool for regulating of the internal market of EU countries in selected commodities of plant origin (cereals, sugar) with the advanced fixed intervention price which is the same throughout the EU.

From the 1st November 2009 started cereal intervention. Storing-in into cereal intervention stocks has to be completed by the end of July 2010. The intervention held by the 31st May 2010 counted 27,059 tonnes of wheat and 137,656 tonnes of barley from buying in the current marketing year.

Standard sale of cereals from intervention stocks by tender for corn commodity did not take place in the marketing year. All bought cereals in marketing year 2008/2009 will be distributed under the food aid programme.

Currently the APA registers zero state of intervention sugar stocks for sugar commodity.

Support for the restructuring of the sugar industry - the support for sugar beet growers who are partially or completely ceased production of quota beet, who switched from sugar beet to other crops, while maintaining agricultural production.

Supporting the restructuring of the sugar industry - the support for sugar beet growers and sugar producers due to reduction of the quota respectively closing sugar factory.

Payments to potatoe producers intended for the growers of potato for production of starch who have contracts with processors.

Production premiums for potato starch producers - the premiums for potato starch producers who have contracts with potato growers.

Support to manufacturers for dry fodder - support is paid to approved processors for dried fodder processed from own production or production of other growers.

Support for the hops to recognized producer groups and individual farmers - support is paid to recognized producer groups and individual producers for registered area from which the crop is harvested.

Support for action plans and support to operational fund - is not given directly to individual farmers, but to the approved groups of producers or organizations of producers.

School fruit - support is provided to approved applicants for the provision of fruit, vegetables and their products in schools. School fruit is intended for children in nurseries, primary and special schools in the age group 3-15 years.





Support for restructuring of vineyards – regards the grubbing and the subsequent replanting of the vineyard by a change in variety, changes in number of shrubs or movement and replenishment of vineyards.

Support for the use of concentrated grape must – is paid for the use of concentrated grape must or rectified concentrated must to increase the alcohol content in wine products. Concomitant use of sucrose and concentrated grape must, or rectified concentrated grape must is excluded.

Support for the insurance of crops (vineyards) - can be provided for insurance against natural disasters, adverse weather events, diseases of the vine and infestation.

Support for the permanent cessation of planting vineyards - means to remove all the vines and the supporting construction of the vineyard, with the loss of rights for replanting.

Support for the promotion on third country markets - is designed to build relationships with the public through publicity and advertising, participation in fairs and exhibitions of international importance, information campaigns intended to appellation of the origin of the product and studies of new markets for the expansion of sales area.

Support for investment to enterprises - is intended to implement and comply with food and production standards, the purchase of internal equipment for sales and promotional spaces within the manufacturing plant and to introduce wine appellation system for labelling wine products and supporting marketing elements for products with protected designation.

ANIMAL COMMODITIES

Interventions - buying, storage, sale (butter, milk powder, beef) – tools of the regulation of the internal market of the EU countries and for selected commodities of animal origin (butter, milk powder, beef) with the amount of intervention fixed in advance. The intervention is not realized nowadays.

Support of consumption of milk in schools – school milk - means a support for consumption of milk and milk products for nursery school children and for pupils at basic and secondary schools. The support shall be provided for the milk subjected to a process of heat treatment.

Support for the milk for feeding purposes - serves for the use of skimmed milk powder in manufacturing of milk fodder.

Private storage of milk products, butter, cream, cheeses, pig-meat, beef, sheep meat and goat meat - The support is intended for the storage of the above mentioned commodities in the own or hired store-houses (not in the store-house owned by the APA).

Support of executing measures for improvement of conditions for the production and marketing of apiculture products - Support is designated to beekeepers applying for support through the nation-wide civil association operating within the nation-wide scope of bee rearing and apiculture in the Slovak Republic.

Support for information and promotion actions aimed at support of agricultural products - is determined to professional organizations (unions, associations) to finance the programmes, which serve to raise awareness of the relevant agricultural products as well as to improve their sales on the internal market and third country markets.

STATE AID

State aid represents the use of public funds aimed at support of particular economic activities and type of business, production of certain goods or the provision of services by public bodies. In the agricultural sector this task is performed by the Agricultural Paying Agency. The task of the state aid is to increase the competitiveness of companies operating in the agricultural sector and to ensure their transparent operation as the component of the European single market.

LEGISLATION

The basic framework for granting state aid and the minimum aid is primary and secondary European Community legislation approximated by the Slovak Republic in 2009 into Government Decree Nr. 264/2009 of the Col. of June 17, 2009 On Support Measures in Agriculture, as amended.

BENEFICIARIES

State aid and de minimis within the agricultural sector are granted to business subjects operating in agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries by the grants, subsidies of services and goods.

In particular there are support measures for SMEs, with the exception of support measures for the minimum aid where the size category of the company is not a limiting factor.

STATE AID FORMS

— **direct supports** — the beneficiary draws the grant as non-repayable financial contribution from the state budget





- **indirect supports** - final beneficiary receives during the year state-aided services from the organization in charge (in most cases, the farming unions, respectively different associations) by the **form of discount** on the invoice price of rendered service
- **de minimis** - an aid, which in course of any period of three fiscal years determined by the beneficiary's accounting period will not exceed the limit set by European legislation. This amount represents 7500 EUR in the basic industry, 30000EUR in fisheries and 200000 Eur in the processing sector.

SUPPORT MEASURES

Government Regulation Nr. 264/2009 On support measures in agriculture, as amended		
Grants in the agricultural basic industry		Aid Form
§2	Subsidy to ensure the participation of farmers and growers in exhibitions	subsidy
§3	Awards' subsidy at exhibitions	<i>de minimis</i>
§4	Subsidy for farmers and growers to participate in exhibitions	<i>de minimis</i>
§5	Subsidy for setting up and keeping studbook and breeding records	subsidy
§6	Subsidy for utility testing, testing and assessment of the breeding value of animals	subsidy
§7	Subsidy for the elimination of animal by-products	subsidy
§8	Subsidy for improvement of the quality of meat chicken	<i>de minimis</i>
§9	Subsidy for bee colonies	<i>de minimis</i>
§10	Subsidy for covering costs and the losses of livestock or the loss of income due to the imposed VET measures	subsidy
§11	Subsidy to cover costs and losses of agricultural crops due to imposed phytosanitary measures	subsidy
§12	Subsidy for insurance payments in agriculture	subsidy

Grants in the agricultural basic industry		Aid Form
§13	Subsidy for investments in agriculture and rural development	subsidy
§14	Subsidy for the operation of state-owned irrigation infrastructure	<i>de minimis</i>

Grants for processing, marketing and quality of agricultural and food products		Aid Form
§15	Subsidy for participation in exhibition	<i>de minimis</i>
§16	Subsidy for improvement of the quality of agricultural products, farmers and growers	subsidy
§17	Subsidy for improvement of the quality of agricultural products in processing in food industry enterprise	<i>de minimis</i>

Subsidies in forestry		Aid Form
§18	The subsidy for siculture and forest protection	subsidy <i>de minimis</i>
§19	Subsidy for development of recreational functions of forests	subsidy
§20	Subsidy for insurance payments for forest crop or reproductive material in forest nurseries	<i>de minimis</i>
§21	Subsidy for the protection of forests endangered by noxious agents	subsidy <i>de minimis</i>
§22	Subsidy for preservation and conservation of forest genetic resources	subsidy <i>de minimis</i>
§23	Subsidy for participation in exhibition	<i>de minimis</i>
§24a	Subsidy for investment in forestry	<i>de minimis</i>





Subsidies in fisheries		Aid Form
§25	Subsidy to cover the loss of fish due to imposed measures	subsidy <i>de minimis</i>
§26	Subsidy for conservation and protection of fish genetic resources	subsidy <i>de minimis</i>
§27	Subsidy for extra-production functions of ponds and small reservoirs particularly suitable for fish farming	subsidy <i>de minimis</i>
§28	Subsidy to provide goods and services in disease prevention and eradication of animal and fish	subsidy
§29	Subsidy for the eradication and prevention of animal and fish disease	<i>de minimis</i>
Other subsidies		Aid Form
§30	Wage subsidies	subsidy
§30a	Subsidy for dispensing equipment for raw cow's milk	<i>de minimis</i>

Government Regulation Nr. 347/2009 On the provision of temporary aid to sugar beet growers	
§2 sec. 1	The subsidy may be granted to the producer, which appears in the register published in the Journal of the Ministry and has a contract with manufacturers for the supply of sugar beet for the marketing year and met the conditions for a single area payment and qualifies for the subsidy stated in a relevant regulation.
§2 sec. 2	The subsidy is calculated by multiplying the established rate and valid quantity of the quota beet of standard quality

The Act No. 267/2010 of the Coll. On granting subsidies to compensate losses caused by adverse climatic event which is comparable to a natural disaster, or natural disaster or incident.	
§5	Subsidy to compensate loss of agricultural production caused by severe climatic event which is comparable to a natural disaster
§6	Subsidy to compensate loss of agricultural products due to a natural disaster
§7	Subsidy to compensate loss of forestry due to a natural disaster
§8	Subsidy to compensate loss in fish farming due to a natural disaster
§9	Subsidy to compensate loss due to an incident

Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic No. 1065/2009-100 of 8th July 2009 On granting subsidies for breeding of historically important gene pool for horses and for racing operation	
Subsidies for the National Horse Breeding Farm „Topoľčianky“ state enterprise	
§1 sec.1 a)	Subsidy for keeping the gene pool of historically important breeds of horses, Lipizzaner, hucul, Shagya Arabian, Arabian full-blooded, Slovak warm-blooded and activities related to breeding and testing of these horses
§1 sec.1 b)	Subsidy for development and maintenance of state property used for breeding the gene pool of historically important breeds of horses: Lipizzaner, hucul, Shagya Arabian, Arabian full-blooded, Slovak warm-blooded
§1 sec.1 c)	Subsidy for keeping studbooks of breeds of horses: Lipizzaner, hucul, Shagya Arabian, Arabian full-blooded, Slovak warm-blooded and central register of all breeds of horses located in the Slovak Republic





Subsidies for the FORESTS of the Slovak Republic, state enterprise	
§1 sec. 2 a)	Subsidy to preserve the genetic resources of a recognized protected horse breed of Noriko Murano type
§1 sec. 2 b)	Subsidy to preserve the development and maintenance of state property used for horse-breeding of Noriko Murano type
Subsidies for the race-ground, state enterprise	
§1 sec. 3 a)	Subsidy for horse-racing and horse-racing activities
§1 sec. 3 b)	Subsidy to verify and support performance of the horses in the horse-racing
§1 sec. 3 c)	Subsidy to verify and support performance of the horses in equestrian events
§1 sec. 3 d)	Subsidy to preserve the development and maintenance of state property used in horse-racing

INTERNET GUIDE

Each person interested in supports should regularly check the section „**News**“, which is displayed as the main page when the internet page www.apa.sk is opened. One can find new announcements, notices and calls with a hypertext link to the relevant documents.

In the tabs of the left column, we publish information on the support forms, agrarian and market information, list of aid beneficiaries as well as legislation in force. A simple click with the left side of the mouse opens the tabs contents into sections.

DIRECT AND AGRIENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS

Contains announcements, legislation, application forms and others forms as well as methodics to fill them in.

PROJECT SUPPORTS SECTION

Contains the part **Rural Development Program 2007 – 2013 (RDP)**, **Fisheries Operational Program (FOP)** and previous programs 2004 – 2006 with information, methodics and forms useful for applicants in order to elaborate projects, applications for payment or damage report.

MARKET ORGANIZATION SECTION

Provides applicants with information on trade and market supports.

STATE AID

Contains national supports calls, legislation in force, state and de minimis aid scheme.

ATIS

Brings each 2 weeks publications of current agrarian and market information, analyses and comments.

AID BENEFICIARIES

Within this section, APA ensures in the Slovak republic the publication of the lists of the beneficiaries of payments from EAGF and EAFRD funds according to the legislation in force and the publication of the list of support beneficiaries from the Fisheries European fund.

LEGISLATION

Regularly brings an overview of the current legislation important for the activity of the Paying agency and drawing of support from different funds oriented to the rural development, agriculture and fisheries.





ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information is in compliance with the Act No. 211/2000 Coll. On the free access to information regarding issues related to the implementation of the Rural Development Program 2007 – 2013, the Fisheries Operational Program 2007 – 2013, the State Aid, SOP RDP SR 2004 – 2006, SR Rural Development Plan 2004 – 2006, SAPARD programme, information on the provision of the non-refundable financial contribution according to the different programme priorities and measures as well as information on the other support forms (direct payments, market measures, trade mechanisms). Other information about the Agricultural Paying Agency are published on the APA's web page and accessible by letter, phone, e-mail or personally at the following addresses:

18 APA regional offices

Agricultural Paying Agency
Head Office
Agricultural Paying Agency
Dobrovičova 12
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Registry

Dobrovičova 12 Bratislava
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Monday to Thursday Friday
7.45 – 12.00 7.45 – 12.00
12.30 – 15.30 12.30 – 14.30

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In case you wish to make a complaint, address it to the APA internal control Division at the above mentioned head office address.

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