

PROGRESS Policy Dialogue
on
Financing Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Agriculture and the Stone Fruits and Nuts Sub-sectors in the Republic of Moldova: Stocktaking Findings and Next steps

Summary Record

Date: 3 December 2025

Location: Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel, Chisinau

Session One: Introductory and Welcome Remarks

The Policy Dialogue opened with a warm welcome from **Ms. Martina Kolb**, Programme Director of PROGRESS (GIZ), who set the tone for an engaging discussion on sustainable finance in agriculture. She highlighted the objectives of the PROGRESS project and encouraged participants to bring forward practical ideas to strengthen climate-resilient agricultural practices across Moldova.

Following the opening, **Mr. Andrian Digolean**, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, underscored the increasing climate risks confronting Moldovan agriculture, including droughts and frosts, and the potential impacts on food security. He emphasised the urgent need for a transition to climate-resilient and resource-efficient agriculture, highlighting measures such as improved land management, biodiversity protection, and modern irrigation. While acknowledging recent donor-supported investments, he stressed that public resources remain limited, positioning the PROGRESS programme as a catalytic driver of change.

Ms. Aliona Rusnac, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Environment, echoed the importance of these priorities and reinforced strong alignment with the Ministry of Agriculture. She drew attention to national climate policies, the ongoing classification of green projects, and the critical role of cross-ministerial cooperation. She also highlighted the involvement of the private sector and international partners, and pointed to the potential of carbon markets in mobilising investment.

The moderator, **Mr. Krzysztof Michalak** (OECD), acknowledged the positive collaboration between the two ministries as a foundation for advancing Moldova's climate adaptation agenda.

Session Two: OECD Stocktaking Presentation

Ms. Nelly Petkova (OECD) presented the main findings of the OECD Stocktaking report and thanked national stakeholders for their contributions. She highlighted that Moldova's subsidy framework is progressively being aligned with EU policies to facilitate integration

into the EU market but more needs to be done to improve financial planning and management of subsidy programmes. Among others, she also stressed that in order to revitalise the agri insurance market, the state-supported agri insurance programme needs further improvements.

Session Three: Panel Discussion – Main Public Finance Sources

The panel on public finance explored the existing instruments and the potential to optimise their use for climate-resilient agriculture.

Mr. Isae Spînu (ODA) described the range of support mechanisms, including grants, guarantees, and concessional loans, and highlighted the strong demand for these instruments alongside constraints posed by limited resources, noting recent efforts to strengthen monitoring, impact assessment, and advisory support.

This perspective was complemented by insights from **Maxim Popov (ADMA)**, who outlined the Agency's work in financing farmers, focusing on machinery, renewable energy, and digitalisation, and noted the persistent challenges of low financial literacy despite high uptake of available programmes, underlining the importance of donor engagement and coordination with banks.

Ms. Alexa Corina (Ministry of Finance) elaborated on recent and planned tax measures supporting small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), emphasising the balance between business incentives and fiscal discipline while maintaining a sector-neutral approach.

Expanding on the institutional perspective, **Mr. Natan Garstea (National Bank of Moldova)** presented the roadmap for sustainable finance, including capacity building, the development of a Green Taxonomy, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) integration, and market transparency, highlighting the importance of aligning national frameworks with EU standards and noting that green bond issuance in Moldova is at an early stage.

The discussion concluded with the perspective of **Serghei Ivanov (Parliament)**, who highlighted farmers' challenges with climate shocks, financing constraints, and high interest rates, and stressed the need for continuity in support programmes, targeted investment measures, and complementary training to ensure long-term viability.

Session Four: Panel Discussion – Private Finance Sources

The session on private finance explored the operational and structural responses of banks, microfinance institutions, and insurance providers to the needs of Moldova's agricultural sector.

Vadim Culea (MAIB) illustrated how the Bank's large agricultural portfolio increasingly supports climate-resilient investments through de-risking instruments and simplified lending processes. Similarly, **Alina Melnic (ProCredit Bank)** emphasised the integration of ESG considerations into lending, the use of international guarantees, and the need for government-backed measures such as subsidies, interest compensation, and guarantee schemes to facilitate investment. **Carmina Vicol (Prime Capital)** reflected on the persistent financing gaps for micro-farmers, highlighting low financial literacy and limited resilience to climate and market shocks, while **Svetlana Lupascu (Insurance Union of the Republic of Moldova)** highlighted the importance of agricultural insurance as a risk management tool, noting low uptake despite high state subsidies and stressing the need for improved regulatory frameworks, digital tools, and awareness campaigns to expand coverage.

Together, these perspectives underscored the interlinked challenges of access, capacity, and risk management in mobilising private finance for climate-resilient agriculture and the role of public finance in providing the right enabling environment and incentive structure.

Session Five: Next Steps and Conclusions

In the concluding session, **Ms. Alexandra Șian** (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry) emphasised that access to finance remains a key constraint for the sector and underlined the importance of trust, transparency, risk-sharing and effective cooperation with commercial banks. She highlighted the role of publicly funded advisory services and the role of agro-insurance in managing climate-related risks in the agriculture sector.

Closing the session, **Ms. Nelly Petkova (OECD)** reinforced that trust is foundational for market development and noted that, while change takes time, the combined engagement of public and private actors provides positive momentum toward strengthening climate-resilient agriculture in Moldova.