PR231873

28/11/2023

STQARRIJA MILL-MINISTERU GĦALL-AGRIKOLTURA, IS-SAJD U D-DRITTIJIET TAL-ANNIMALI: Titwaqqaf l-Aġenzija Riżorsi Agrikoli Malta – parti mir-riforma tar-raba'

F'konferenza tal-aħbarijiet bit-tema 'Malta Ġusta', il-Ministru għall-Agrikoltura, is-Sajd u d-Drittijiet tal-Annimali Anton Refalo ħabbar it-twaqqif tal-Aġenzija Riżorsi Agrikoli Malta li hija parti mir-riforma fil-qasam tar-raba' mħabbra f'Ottubru tal-2022.

Il-Ministru Anton Refalo spjega li din l-aġenzija primarjament hija responsabbli mill-ħarsien tal-art agrikola, sabiex din tibqa' tiġi kkultivata u maħduma mill-bdiewa, sabiex tiġi garantita s-sostenibbiltà tal-biedja, il-produzzjoni tal-ikel u l-ħarsien tal-ambjent rurali.

Il-Ministru Refalo kompla jispjega l-irwol li se jkollha din l-aġenzija, fosthom li tassigura illi l-art agrikola tibqa' tinħadem għall-iskop agrikolu tagħha. Għaldaqstant se tkun qed tilqa' r-reġistrazzjoni tal-artijiet agrikoli kemm dawk li qed jiġu mikrija lill-bdiewa kif ukoll dawk illi qed jinħadmu mis-sid stess, kif ukoll ir-reġistrazzjoni ta' kwalunkwe bejgħ ta' art agrikola. Għal dan il-għan se tkun qed iżżomm reġistru b'informazzjoni dwar il-pussess u l-użu tal-art.

L-aġenzija se tkun qed tinċentiva wkoll l-akkwist ta' raba' privata minn bdiewa li għandhom l-art agrikola mikrija lilhom, billi jingħataw id-dritt ta' preferenza meta s-sid jiddeċiedi illi jkun irid ibiegħ l-art li tkun qed tinħadem.

Il-Ministru Refalo kompla jispjega li l-aġenzija se tkun qed takkwista wkoll raba' offruta għall-bejgħ mis-sidien sabiex l-aġenzija stess tkun tista' talloka tali art sabiex tinħadem minn bdiewa, filwaqt li ser issir distinzjoni bejn bdiewa attivi, bdiewa tal-passatemp u dawk ġodda li għadhom deħlin jew li qed jippruvaw jidħlu fis-settur agrikolu.

Riżorsi Agrikoli Malta se tkun qed tistabbilixxi diversi miżuri sabiex jiġi salvagwardjat il-ħarsien tar-raba', fosthom se tkun qed tniedi inċentivi lill-bdiewa żgħażagħ, fejn se jkunu jistgħu jibbenefikaw minn strumenti finanzjarji li jgħinuhom jixtru art agrikola.

Il-Ministru spjega wkoll li minn Jannar se tidħol fis-seħħ miżura oħra importanti li ġiet imħabbra fil-Budget 2024, l-eżenzjoni tat-taxxa tas-suċċessjoni fuq art agrikola mikrija jew maħduma minn bdiewa. Permezz ta' din il-miżura, kwalunkwe persuna illi tkun għadha kif wirtet art agrikola li tkun qed tiġi mikrija lil xi bidwi jew art agrikola li tkun qed tiġi maħduma mill-werriet stess, ser tkun qed tiġi eżenti mit-taxxa tas-suċċessjoni wara li l-istess persuna li tkun eliġibbli sabiex tiggwadanja minn tali inċentiv tkun irreġistrat l-art inkwistjoni mar-Riżorsi Agrikoli Malta.

Il-Ministru Refalo ħeġġeġ lis-sidien illi għandhom ir-raba' agrikola sabiex jirreġistraw tali art mal-Aġenzija. "Il-Gvern se jkompli bit-twettiq tal-ħidma tiegħu sabiex l-art agrikola tiġi mħarsa bl-aħjar mod possibbli u li ma jkunx hemm riskju għall-għajxien tal-bdiewa tagħna," temm jgħid il-Ministru Anton Refalo.

PR231873

28/11/2023

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS:

Establishment of the Riżorsi Agrikoli Malta Agency – part of the agricultural reform

At a press conference themed ‘A Fair Malta’, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights, Anton Refalo, announced the establishment of the Riżorsi Agrikoli Malta Agency, which forms part of the agricultural reform announced in October 2022.

Minister Anton Refalo explained that this agency is primarily responsible for safeguarding agricultural land, ensuring it continues to be cultivated and worked by farmers, thereby guaranteeing the sustainability of farming, food production, and the protection of the rural environment.

The Minister further elaborated on the role of the agency, including its responsibility to ensure that agricultural land remains used for its intended agricultural purpose. Therefore, it will be accepting the registration of agricultural land both when leased to farmers and when worked by the owner themselves, as well as the registration of any sale of agricultural land. To this end, the agency will maintain a register containing information on land ownership and usage.

The agency will also incentivize the acquisition of private farmland by farmers who currently lease agricultural land, by granting them the right of first refusal when the owner decides to sell the land being cultivated.

Minister Refalo continued by explaining that the agency will also acquire farmland offered for sale by owners, so that the agency itself can allocate such land to be cultivated by farmers. A distinction will be made between active farmers, hobby farmers, and newcomers who are entering or attempting to enter the agricultural sector.

Riżorsi Agrikoli Malta will be establishing various measures to safeguard the protection of farmland, including launching incentives for young farmers, who will be able to benefit from financial instruments to help them purchase agricultural land.

The Minister also explained that starting from January, another important measure announced in the 2024 Budget will come into effect: the exemption from inheritance tax on agricultural land that is either leased or cultivated by farmers. Through this measure, any person who has just inherited agricultural land that is being leased to a farmer or agricultural land being cultivated by the heir themselves will be exempt from inheritance tax, provided that the eligible person registers the land in question with Riżorsi Agrikoli Malta.

Minister Refalo urged landowners who possess agricultural land to register such land with the Agency. “The Government will continue its efforts to ensure that agricultural land is protected in the best possible way and that there is no risk to the livelihood of our farmers,” concluded Minister Anton Refalo.

Photo: DOI - Pierre Sammut