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Press Release

## **Policy Planning in the Agricultural Sector**

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LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME - LEONARDO DA VINCI PLM (People in the Labour Market)

MIAF has successfully concluded a project within the Leonardo da Vinci programme which is co-financed by the European Union. The main aim of the project was an all-inclusive learning visit in the Netherlands covering sectors of specific importance to Maltese agriculture and which ranged from potting soil to the fresh and processed product.

In fact, MIAF studied the agricultural markets internationally and identified one of the products that is getting the best prices and having an annual market increase. Indeed, the project took as a specific example this particular cultivation which is highly specialized. So as to ensure success, Dutch farmers have actually invested in a dedicated innovation and research institute which in turn provides technical solutions to the farmers who are participating in the project.

The Maltese participants were chosen from different spheres in agriculture where all of them could focus on different sectors which are all needed and of paramount importance within Maltese agriculture. Farmers were given specific knowledge according to their competence and this has resulted in having the possibility of introducing this new product through a pilot project in Malta.



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This project highlighted the great importance that specialised institutes have in the development of Dutch agriculture. It also showed the dire need of a set up wherein farmers from different sectors can have a real voice so as to ensure that the best policies are implemented by the administration for the benefit of the farmers themselves. The experience in the Netherlands has actually shown that only with a true cooperation in between partners who study, research and work in a team, results in agriculture can be achieved. Indeed, regional development will now be possible through the transfer of technical know how for an experimental project to be carried out in Malta in the coming weeks.