



# Quality Products – Process and benefits of recognition

---

Ingrid Borg

# What is a Geographical Indication

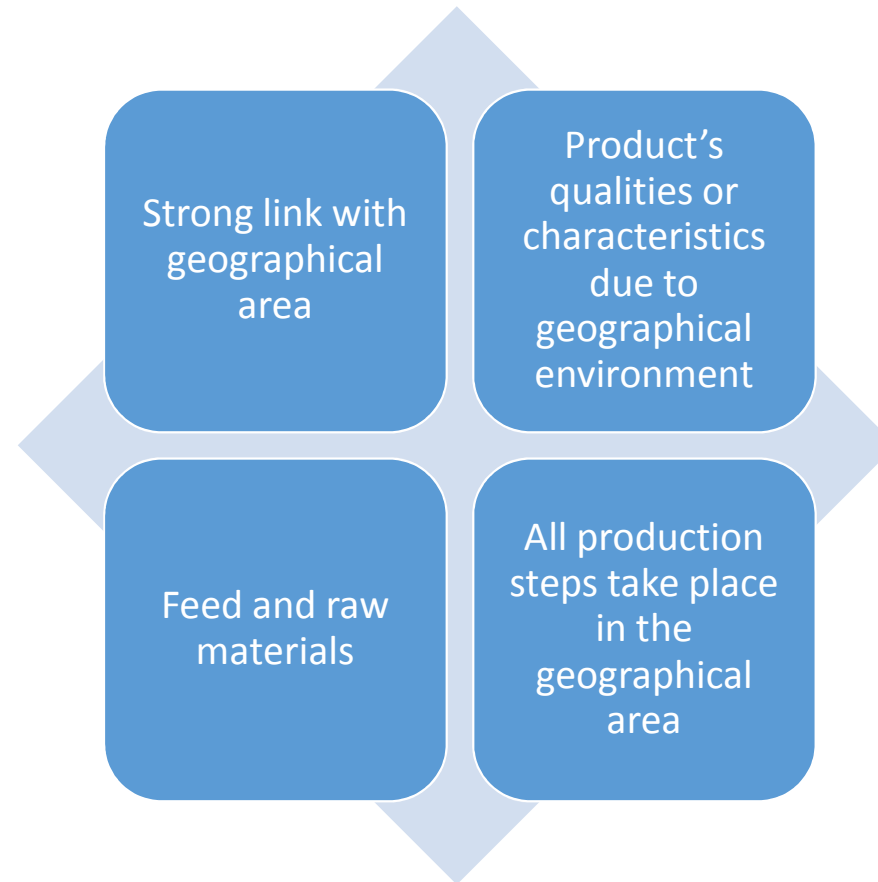
A geographical indication (GI) is a name and sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.

# Agricultural products and foodstuffs: PDO, PGI, TSG

- Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs
  - PDO – Protected Designation of Origin
  - PGI – Protected Geographical Indication
  - TSG- Traditional Speciality Guaranteed

# PDO



Example: Kalamata olive oil PDO is entirely produced in the region of Kalamata in Greece, using olive varieties from that area

# PGI

Product's quality, reputation or other characteristic essentially attributable to its geographical region

At least 1 production step in the defined geographical area



Example: Olio di Calabria PGI is an extra-virgin olive oil produced from olives from the Calabria region

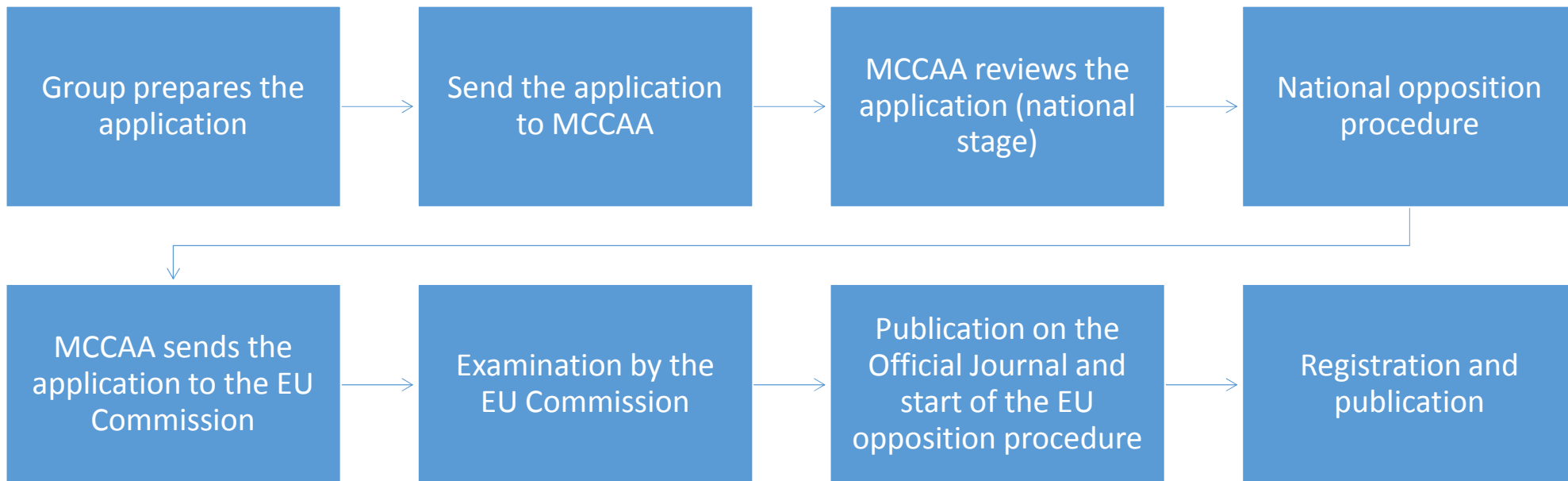
# TSG

- Traditional Specialities Guaranteed do not refer to an origin but highlight the traditional raw materials, the traditional composition or a traditional method of manufacturing or processing. It is a scheme based on tradition.



Example: Traditional Bramley  
Apple Pie Filling TSG

# Application process



# National procedure



The MCCAА\_TRD is available from the outset to guide applicants – i.e. BEFORE there is a formal application



The formal application is initially vetted by the MCCAА\_TRD for compliance to the EU legislation



Subsequent to initiating (validity/compliance) the application is forwarded to the Standing Committee for Geographical Indications and Designations for comments and opinion to guide and advise MCCAА\_TRD



# Standing Committee for Geographical Indications and Designations

- Standing Committee for Geographical Indications and Designations for 2022-2025 is comprised of the following entities:
  - Environmental Health Directorate, Public Health, MfH
  - Veterinary Regulations Directorate, MAFA
  - Agriculture Directorate, MAFA
  - University of Malta, Institute of Maltese Studies
  - MCCAА\_Standards and Metrology Institute (SMI)
  - MCCAА\_Technical Regulations Division (TRD)

# National Opposition Procedure

- Application is published in the Government Gazette and MCCA website: 2 months
- In the event of a formal objection MCCA may, after having consulted the Standing Committee:
  - (a) accept the original application and reject the objection,
  - (b) uphold the objection and reject the application in its totality,
  - (c) request specific amendments to the specification or to the supporting documentation originally provided.'
- In the event of a revised application being submitted, the 2 months period shall be extended by a further 1 month following submission of the revised application.

# National Procedure



The final decision and opinion by the MCCAА\_TRD is after consulting the Standing Committee Geographical Indications and Designations, for their final advice and position.



If the application is favourably accepted, it is forwarded to the EU Commission.



Once the application is forwarded to the Commission, a transitional national protection may be initiated.

# Benefits - Protection

Valuable intellectual property right

Protection of the name not of the product

Against any misuse, imitation or evocation such as:

- 'style', 'type', 'method'; and any other practice liable to mislead the consumer to the true origin of the product

Against creating trademarks containing or identical to the product

Protection unlimited in time

Applies to any operator within the geographical area respecting product specification

# Benefits for Producers

Reserved to products respecting the product specification

Production is kept in the geographical area, protecting local value at global level

Collective IP right

Administrative protection by Member State public authorities for EU wide protection

Organisation in producer groups gives stronger position in the agri-food supply chain

Differentiation on the market allows often a better price

# Important Considerations –PDO/PGI

- Name should be:
  - in the national/local language used to define the product
  - usually includes a “geographical element” – reference to a region, place or country
  - traditionally used

# Important Considerations – Producer Group

- An interested group of producers or processors
- working with the product
- No requirement as for the legal form
- No obligation for a GI producer to be member of the group
- Producer Group

# Important Considerations – Application

- Contact details:
  - Application Group
  - Bodies verifying compliance
- Product specifications:
  - Name to be protected
  - Description of the geographical area
  - Production method
  - Details establishing the link
- Single document:
  - Concise summary of the product specification
  - Published in the Official Journal on the EU in all languages
  - Reference point for enforcement



# Important Considerations – Description of Product

- Principle physical, chemical, microbiological or organoleptic characteristics
- Measurement units, technical terms of comparison
- No subjective or general description
- Consistent with the Link section
- Do not include common characteristics inherent to all products of its kind or mandatory legal requirements

# Important Considerations – Production Method

- Method enabling reproduction of the product anywhere in the area
- Authentic and local methods
- Part of the description of the product

# Important Considerations - Link with the geographical area

The most important section of an application that shows the link between the specificities of the geographical area with those of the product (causal link)

Identify and describe the characteristics of the defined geographical area ; ex. topography, soil, climate, special skills, etc.

Identify and describe the specificities of the product that are due to the characteristics of the geographical area; e.g. aroma, fruitiness, acidity etc. NB. Coherence with the product description

Identify and describe what makes this product "special" compared to similar products: compare features of the product that have a relation to the geographical area

Show how the specificities and special features of the product are influenced by the factors present in the area: Objective arguments that link the specificities of the area with the specificities of the product

# Important Considerations - Link based on Reputation

Show that the reputation of the product is linked to the name and attributable to the geographical origin

Provide proof of this reputation of the name; e.g. celebrations of the product, prizes, books referring to the name, references in the cooking

Historical references are irrelevant but ... they may contribute to creating a context for a better understanding of the story of the GI

# Thank you

- More information

[Geographical indications and quality schemes explained](#)

MCCAA website:

<https://mccaa.org.mt/Section/Content?contentId=5752>

Email: [rad.mccaa@mccaa.org.mt](mailto:rad.mccaa@mccaa.org.mt)

Tel: 23952000



# Interventi Agro-ambientali Klimatici (AECCs)

**AECC 7A – APPOĠĠ GHALL-KONVERŻJONI GHAL  
BIEDJA ORGANIKA**

**AECC 7B – APPOĠĠ ĠHALL-MANUTENZJONI TAL-  
BIEDJA ORGANIKA**



Co-funded by  
the European Union



## AECC 7 – BIEDJA ORGANIKA

- Il-Mizura AECC 7A - tipprovdi appoġġ għall-bdiewa biex jikkonvertu l-produzzjoni tagħhom għal prattiki tal-biedja organika bi prodotti mmirati għall-konsum mill-bniedem.
- Il-Mizura AECC 7B - tipprovdi appoġġ għall-bdiewa li huma diġà ċertifikati bħala produtturi organiċi għall-fini ta' manutenzjoni.

# Kriterji ta' eligibilità



- Il-bdiewa li jibbenefikaw mill-iskema tal-kwalità organika ma jkunux eligibbli għall-appoġġ taħt l-iskema tal-konverżjoni u ż-żamma organika fl-istess sena;
- L-applikanti jridu jkunu bdiewa attivi u jidhlu f'impenn biex jikkontrollaw il-ġestjoni tal-art għat-tul tal-perjodu tal-kuntratt, u jkunu involuti fil-produzzjoni tal-ikel;
- Il-bdiewa jkunu meħtieġa jzommu rekords rilevanti għall-azjenda tagħhom u jagħmluhom disponibbli waqt kwalunkwe spezzjoni uffiċjali;



# Kriterji ta' eligibilità



- Dawk li jirċievu appoġġ taħt waħda min dawn il-miżuri huma meħtieġa jattendu taħriġ rilevanti;
- L-applikant irid ikollu tal-inqas 0.1124 ha ta' art agrikola eligibbli inkluża taħt din il-Miżura;
- Kull għalqa iddikjarata jrid ikollha tal-inqas 0.01 ha ta' kopertura tal-art eligibbli speċifika għas-sottomiżura inkwistjoni.

# AECC 7A – APPOĠĠ GĦALL-KONVERŻJONI GĦAL BIEDJA ORGANIKA



- L-appoġġ għall-konverżjoni japplika biss għal massimu ta' sentejn (2) għall-art kollha li tiġi kkonvertita għall-produzzjoni organika;
- Wara dan, il-bidwi jimxi lejn il-mizura AECC 7B li tagħti apoġġ għall- manutenzjoni tal-biedja organika wara t-tmiem tal-impenn ta' konverżjoni (impenn totali ta' seba' (7) snin);
- Il-bidwi għandu javża lill-ARPA minnufih meta l-għalqa tiegħu tikseb iċ-ċertifikazzjoni bhala “Organika”;
- Il-bdiewa ser ikunu meħtieġa juru ċertifikazzjoni sabiex ikunu eligibbli għall-appoġġ għall-mizuri, liema ċertifikazzjoni għandha tinkludi kull għalqa u prodott marbutin taħt dawn il-mizuri.



## AECC 7A – Rata ta' Appoġġ

- **€4,377.60/ha** jew **€491/tomna** għal art li qed tigi kkonvertita għal art organika u qed tintuża għall-kultivazzjoni ta' uċuh tar-raba' annwali (arable land).
- **€3,222.00/ha** jew **€362/tomna** għal art li qed tigi kkonvertita għal art organika u qed tintuża għall-kultivazzjoni ta' siġar.

# AECC 7B – APPOĠĠ ĠHALL-MANUTENZJONI TAL-BIEDJA ORGANIKA



- L-applikant irid jikkommetti li jzomm ir-raba' taht prattika organika ghal hames (5) snin;
- L-applikant irid jikkultiva prodott intenzjonat ghall-konsum dirett tal-bniedem, ghal tal-anqas sena wahda (1) fuq kull ghalqa marbuta fil-kuntratt;
- Il-bdiewa ser ikunu mehtiega juru certifikazzjoni sabiex ikunu eligibbli ghall-appoġġ ghall-mizuri, liema certifikazzjoni ghandha tinkludi kull ghalqa u prodott marbutin taht dawn il-mizuri.

## AECC 7B – Rata ta' Appoġġ



- **€3,614.40/ha** jew **€406/tomna** għal art organika li qiegħda taħt zamma li qed tintuża għall-kultivazzjoni ta' uċuh tar-raba' annwali (arable land).
- **€1,057.00/ha** jew **€118/tomna** għal art organika li qiegħda taħt zamma u qed tintuża għall-kultivazzjoni ta' siġar.



## Talbiet ser jintlaqghu waqt il-perjodu tat-talbiet (Awwissu- Settembru)

- Sabiex tagħmel din it-talba żur il-Front Office tal-ARPA u tiegħu miegħek dawn id-dokumenti li ġejjin:
- Karta tal-identità;
- Ċertifikazzjoni ta' konverżjoni jew għaż-żamma ta' biedja organika;
- F'każ li qiegħed tirrappreżenta lil xi hadd ġib miegħek prokura mingħand nutar u l-karta tal-identità tar-rappreżentant;

### **Malta – Front Office**

Il-Pitkalija

Ta' Qali, limiti ta' H' Attard

**Hinijiet ta' Ftuh tal-Front Office Ta' Malta:**

**Mit-Tnejn sal-Ġimgħa 07:30 – 12:30**

### **Għawdex – Farm Sperimentali tal-Gvern**

Triq l-Mgarr,

Xewkija

**Hinijiet ta' Ftuh tal-Uffiċċju t'Għawdex:**

**Mit-Tnejn sal-Ġimgħa: 07:00 – 12:30**



**Ghal iktar informazzjoni u biex taċċessa l-linji gwida dettaljati tista' żżur is-sit tal-ARPA**  
**[www.arpa.gov.mt](http://www.arpa.gov.mt)**

**Jew billi taghmel kuntatt mal-Aġenzija permezz tal-indirizz elettroniku**  
**[apra.mafa@gov.mt](mailto:apra.mafa@gov.mt)**

**Jew billi ċċempel fuq 22926148**

**Grazzi tal-attenzjoni**



# Mistoqsijiet



Sit: [www.arpa.gov.mt](http://www.arpa.gov.mt)

Tel: 22926 148

Im: [arpa.mafa@gov.mt](mailto:arpa.mafa@gov.mt)



**GVERN TA' MALTA**  
MINISTERU GĦALL-AGRIKOLTURA,  
IS-SAJD U D-DRITTJIET TAL-ANNIMALI  
AĠENZJA GĦALL-PAGAMENTI AGRIKOLI U RURALI



# Organic Farming Certification

---

**Ing. Francis Farrugia**



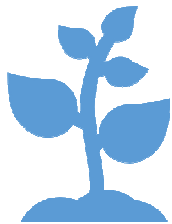
---

MALTA COMPETITION AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AUTHORITY

# Outline

- European regulation on organic farming
- Organic Farming Principles
- Who are the parties involved?
- Certification process
- Inspection information
- Certificates and Logos
- Statistics
- Facts on olives production and processing

# EU Organic Farming Regulation



## Regulation

### **EU Reg. 848 of 2018**

Organic production and labelling of organic products



## Implementing Regulation

### **EU Reg. 1165 of 2021**

Authorising certain products and substances for use in organic production and establishing their lists

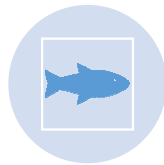
# Organic farming regulation covers production rules for:



PLANT



LIVESTOCK



ALGAE AND  
AQUACULTURE  
ANIMALS



PROCESSED  
FOOD



PROCESSED  
FEED



WINE



YEAST USED  
AS FOOD OR  
FEED

# Organic Farming Principles – Soil Health and Fertility

**Soil Health and Fertility:** Organic farming emphasizes the use of natural processes to enhance soil fertility. Practices include crop rotation, cover cropping, and the use of organic matter such as compost and manure. Synthetic fertilizers and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are typically prohibited.



# Organic Farming Principles – Biodiversity

**Biodiversity:** Organic farming encourages the preservation and promotion of biodiversity. This involves maintaining a variety of crops and, where applicable, incorporating native vegetation to support a diverse ecosystem. Crop diversity can reduce the risk of pests and diseases.





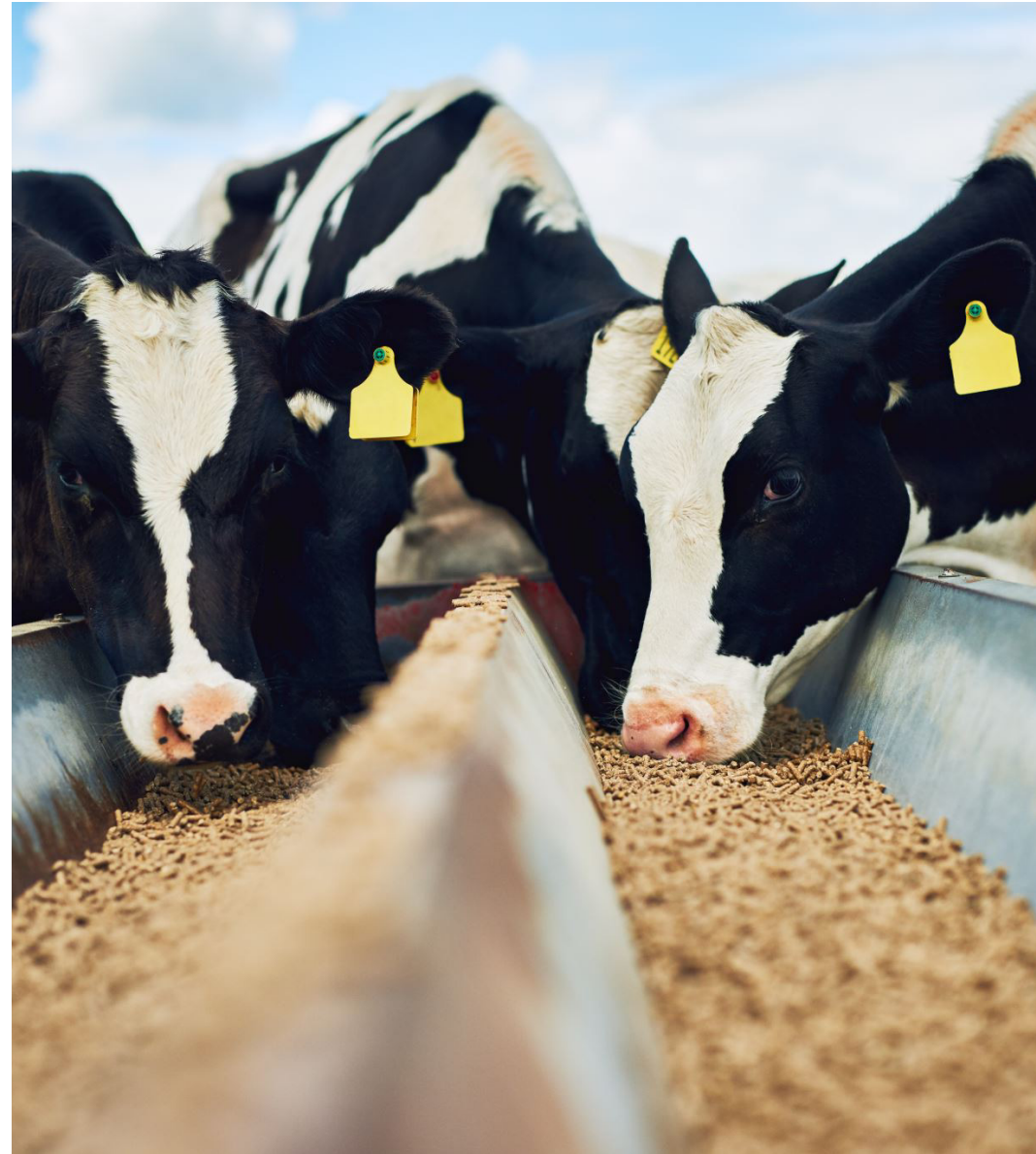
# Organic Farming Principles – No synthetic chemicals

**No Synthetic Chemicals:** The use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals is restricted or prohibited in organic farming. Instead, organic farmers rely on natural alternatives, such as biological pest control, crop rotation, and companion planting.



# Organic Farming Principles – Animal Welfare

**Animal Welfare:** If livestock is part of the farming system, organic regulations often include standards for the humane treatment of animals. This may involve providing access to outdoor areas, ensuring proper living conditions, and restricting the use of antibiotics and synthetic hormones.





## Organic Farming Principles – Avoidance of GMO

**Avoidance of GMOs:** Organic farming typically prohibits the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). This includes both genetically modified crops and the use of genetically modified organisms in inputs like seeds and feed. The emphasis is on maintaining the integrity of organic products by avoiding genetic engineering.



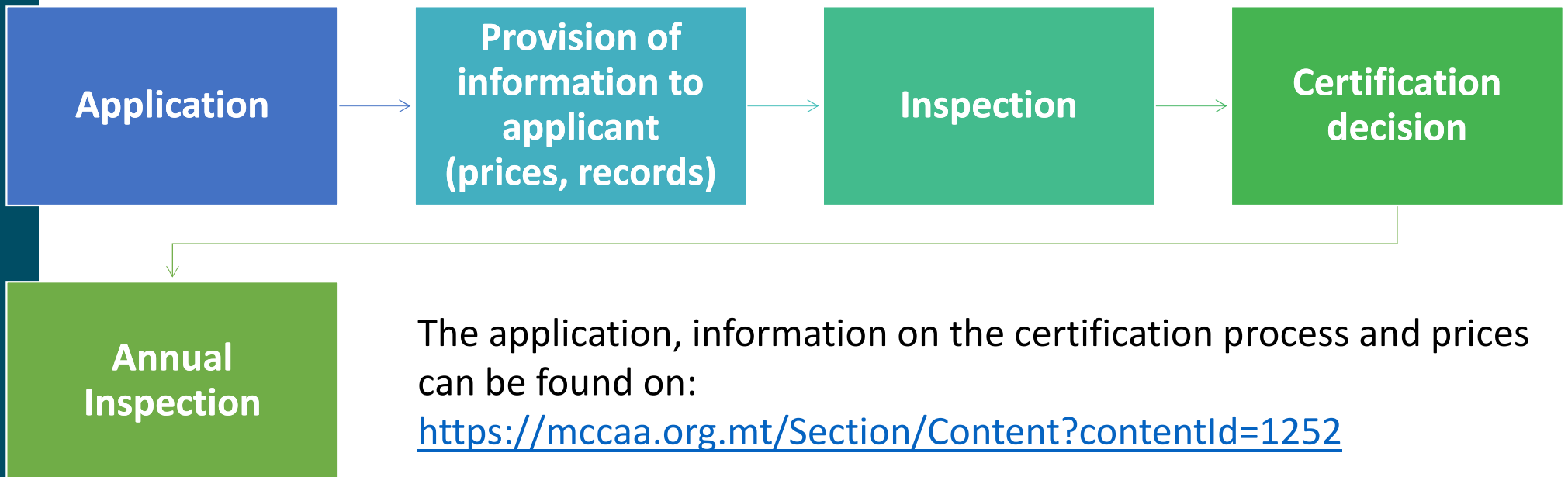
# MAFA and MCCA

- The responsibility for organic farming regulation in Malta falls under the **Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Rights (MAFA)** the **Competent Authority**.
- The regulatory framework and enforcement mechanisms for organic farming are typically managed by government agencies or departments within the ministry.
- Some of these responsibilities have been delegated to the **Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCA)** the **Control Authority**

# MCCAA – Control Authority

- The delegated responsibilities are:
  - Establishing the organic certification process.
  - Carrying out inspections on operators who voluntarily request certification.
  - Registering of operators who comply with the requirements of the organic farming regulations.
  - Reporting to the Competent Authority on the certification system and the status of the operators.

# Certification process



The application, information on the certification process and prices can be found on:

<https://mcaa.org.mt/Section/Content?contentId=1252>

# Who can be certified?

---

Producers

---

Processors

---

Importers (non-EU countries)

---

Retailers

---

Wholesalers

---

Others: Warehousing, Transportation

# Producer Inspection

An inspection typically covers:

- ✓ Location of site
- ✓ Perimeter barriers
- ✓ Use of fertilisers
- ✓ Use of authorised plant protection products
- ✓ Seeds and Seedlings (propagation material)
- ✓ Traditional organic practices
- ✓ Risk assessment on the operator
- ✓ Sampling (soil, leaves, products)
- ✓ Testing for pesticides and GMOs
- ✓ Records of purchasing and production



# Producers' certification

- Following the inspection and if the operator complies with the organic farming regulations requirements, a certificate is issued to the producer.
- The first certificate issued is 'In-conversion to organic'. This certificate is valid either for 2 years (crops only) or 3 years (trees).
- The certificate will list the parcels that have been inspected.
- The second and subsequent certificates certify the operator as 'Fully' organic. These certificates are valid for three years and can be renewed.

# Organic Farming Certification Logo

- All products put on the market as 'Organic' shall bear the organic logo.
- The organic logo shall be used only when the operator complies with the organic regulation requirements and certified by a recognised body.





# MT – Organic Farming Statistics

- The area of land certified as ‘in-conversion’ and organic before January 2023 was 67H
- The area of land certified as ‘in-conversion’ and organic after January 2023 was 82H (17% increase - potentially due new funding scheme offered by ARPA)
- Number of certified operators
  - Producers 27
  - Producers & Processors 7
  - Processors 1
  - Importers 33
  - Retailers 29
  - Others 14

# Other facts specific to Olives Producers and Processors

- **Group certification:** The revised regulation provides requirements for group certification. This means that producers can join to apply for certification.
- **Processors of Olive Oil:** Olive oil can be claimed as organic if the olive production is certified as organic and the olive oil processing is certified as organic.
- **Non-certified Olive Oil Processors:**
  - In case an olive producer is making use of a non-certified olive oil press, an agreement between both operators (producer and processor) is to be established where the processor shall process the olives on first pressing run following thorough cleaning of the press.
  - The cleaning agents shall conform with the regulation.
  - The pressing session shall be witnessed by the producer at all times.

# Thank you

- Any questions
- Email for queries: [certification@mccaa.org.mt](mailto:certification@mccaa.org.mt)