



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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**AgBiz Program**

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **USAID Supports Improving Linkages between Processed Vegetable Companies and their Primary Producers**

USAID, a part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia, is investing in economic growth in the country by assisting individual agribusinesses to increase their competitiveness and productivity, and successfully and sustainably enter new markets for value added agriculture-based products. Through its AgBiz Program, USAID is supporting organizing a one-day workshop on "Improving Linkages between Processed Vegetable Companies and their Primary Producers - including related MAFWE policy measures".

The presenters at the workshops are senior representatives of the Macedonian Association of Processors (MAP), the Federation of Farmers of Republic of Macedonia (FFRM) and the Deputy Minister of the Macedonian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) - Mr. Perica Ivanovski.

The goal of this workshop is to discuss the experience producers and processors of vegetables have regarding backward linkages/contract production, their expectations and requirements regarding contract production for the next season, and the related new MAFWE policies and measures for stimulating backward linkages/contract production and improving cooperation between producers and processors of Macedonian vegetables.

To date USAID's AgBiz Program has provided support to 170 agribusinesses to improve their export competitiveness and thereby sustainably expand their exports. AgBiz is supporting 20 large export focused business expansion projects that have a total cost of US\$5.9 million and are projected to result in US\$28.7 million in increased exports.

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.