



## MODULE

# EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMPETENCE

### Unit 5 | Activity 1

### Collaborating for Funding and Governmental Support



90min



- Pen and blank paper
- Access to internet

## DESCRIPTION

As fellow stewards of the land within the EU, there's a world of opportunity waiting for you through collaboration, funding access, and governmental support. This activity delves into actionable steps that smallholder farmers can take to gain access to this.

# THE ACTIVITY

## **Exploring Opportunities: Collaborating for Funding and Governmental Support**

As fellow stewards of the land within the EU, there's a world of opportunity waiting for you through collaboration, funding access, and governmental support. Let's delve into actionable steps that you can take to make it happen:

### **1. Collaborating for Funding:**

**Cooperative Initiatives:** Consider forming a cooperative with neighboring farmers. Together, you can apply for funding to enhance shared resources like irrigation systems or processing facilities.

**Innovation Workshops:** Participate in local agricultural innovation workshops and seminars. These events not only provide knowledge but also connect you with potential partners and funding sources.

**Local Business Partnerships:** Partner with local restaurants or markets that prioritize local produce. This collaboration can lead to financial support for your sustainable farming practices.

### **2. Governmental Support:**

**Agri-Policy Meetings:** Attend meetings hosted by local agricultural authorities. These gatherings offer insights into available grants, subsidies, and support programs tailored to your region.

**Farmers' Councils:** Engage with farmers' councils or advisory groups. Your input can shape policies that directly support your initiatives, ensuring they align with your needs.

### **3. Funding Opportunities**

**Rural Development Funds:** Investigate EU rural development funds. For instance, look into programs like the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) that support sustainable projects.

**Horizon Europe:** Explore Horizon Europe, an EU research and innovation program. Funding streams like "Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research" could align with your goals.

**Climate Action Funding:** Delve into climate action funding mechanisms. For instance, the LIFE program supports projects that tackle climate change, such as adopting eco-friendly farming practices.

#### 4. Accessing Funding:

**Online Resources:** Regularly check official agricultural and EU websites for funding calls, application deadlines, and guidelines.

**Detailed Proposals:** Craft detailed proposals that outline the potential impact of your initiative. For example, if you're proposing sustainable irrigation, explain how it conserves water and boosts yield.

**Partner Highlights:** Emphasize partnerships in your proposals. If you collaborate with a local business, highlight how their involvement enhances the community impact.



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# THE THEORY

In the realm of smallholder farming, the journey toward a more sustainable food industry holds immense promise. It's a journey marked not just by individual effort, but by the power of collective action and collaboration. By embracing this mindset and aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), smallholder farmers have the potential to wield a transformative influence on society and the food industry.

**Shared Vision for Sustainability:** The SDGs lay the foundation for a shared vision—extending beyond borders and sectors—to eliminate poverty, hunger, and environmental challenges. These ambitious goals act as a roadmap, guiding us toward a future where well-being is harmonized with nature.

**Goal 17: Strengthening Partnerships:** At the heart of this transformation lies Goal 17—the linchpin that emphasizes "means of implementation." This goal underscores the significance of forging partnerships and collaborations that transcend traditional boundaries.

**Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships:** The essence of Goal 17 lies in multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources. By joining hands with governments, civil society, and the private sector, smallholder farmers become drivers of change, contributing their unique insights and experiences.

**Fostering Knowledge Sharing:** Collaboration is a bridge to shared wisdom. Engaging with diverse stakeholders opens the door to an exchange of knowledge that goes beyond farm boundaries. Farmers learn from experts, and experts learn from farmers—a mutually enriching cycle.

**Amplifying Influence:** The collective voice of smallholder farmers resonates far beyond the fields. Through partnerships, farmers amplify their influence on policy-making and the societal narrative surrounding sustainable practices. This influence becomes a catalyst for wider adoption.

**Practical Impact:** Collaboration breeds tangible change. Through partnerships, smallholder farmers can implement sustainable practices that ripple through supply chains. By adopting innovative techniques, conserving resources, and supporting local communities, farmers pave the way for a more responsible food industry.

**Bridging the Gap:** Goal 17 bridges the gap between public and private sectors, propelling us toward a future where sustainable practices become the norm rather than the exception. Public-private partnerships forge a new path for innovation and sustainability.

**Local Action, Global Change:** The impact of smallholder farmers isn't confined to their local communities; it has the potential to reverberate globally. By embodying sustainable values and practices, farmers inspire change on a wider scale, contributing to a healthier planet and a thriving food industry.

In the spirit of collaboration and shared vision, smallholder farmers stand as crucial protagonists in the journey towards a sustainable food industry. By leveraging the power of partnerships and embracing the ideals of the SDGs, farmers not only secure their livelihoods but also chart a course toward a future where food nourishes both people and the planet. The path is clear—collective action and partnerships hold the key to unlocking lasting and positive change.

By engaging in this activity, smallholder farmers can put the principles of Goal 17 and the SDGs into practice while fostering a sense of community and collaboration. The event becomes a platform for learning, sharing, and initiating meaningful changes that lead to a more sustainable and interconnected farming community.

Dear farmers, you're at the heart of positive change. By collaborating, accessing funding, and engaging with your community, you're shaping the sustainable future of agriculture. Consider each event and initiative as a seed that, when nurtured, grows into a thriving landscape of progress. Together, let's cultivate a greener, more sustainable future. Benefitting you to gain insight into:

**Knowledge Sharing:** The activity promotes sharing of sustainable practices and insights within the community.

**Collaboration:** Participants collaborate on identifying challenges and solutions, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility.

**Local Impact:** By implementing the knowledge gained from the activity, participants can directly contribute to a more sustainable local food system.

**Awareness:** The event raises awareness about the SDGs and Goal 17, encouraging participants to consider the global context of their actions.

## Developed by our organizations

