

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## Hungarian Social Farm Association

(Hungary)





## 1. Policy paper

### 1.1. Professional policy proposal- Policy paper

The social farm provides services that promote mental and physical well-being and the transfer of knowledge. Our primary goal is that, by supplementing domestic legislation, a regulatory environment can be created in Hungary that promotes the fulfillment of the social function of agriculture and develops the self-sufficiency of disadvantaged groups. Our goal is to strengthen the positive vision of the local farmers, and by activating disadvantaged groups, we connect them to the mainstream of the local economy, thus contributing to the strengthening of the economic potential of the countryside.

The social farm initiative meets the international trends and recommendations in the field of social responsibility of agriculture, as well as the various domestic rural development initiatives. Our proposal fully serves the practice-oriented implementation of the CXXII. of 2013. act on the mission of the law on the transfer of agricultural and forestry land, the introduction of which already uses the term "production community".

Our proposal for the creation of social farms does not initiate the creation of a new organizational form, but tries to create the operational legal framework conditions for the social aspects of multifunctional agriculture.

The social farms definition could be the following:

The SOCIAL FARM is a form of cooperative farming that works in accordance with social and solidarity principles, for the sake of shaping social and environmental attitudes, which carries out agricultural production, processing, and service provider activities with the involvement of disadvantaged people; and performs complementary activities related to agriculture for a wider range of society. The different types of social farms: Rehabilitation Farm, Care Farm, Social Farm.

- Rehabilitation Farm, or farm for social/rehabilitation purposes: the main characteristic of it is the involvement of disadvantaged people by employing them within the framework of a social institution.
- Caring Farm: the main characteristic of it is the involvement of disadvantaged people by those who carry out agricultural activities, at the place of agricultural activity.
- Social Farm, or cooperative farm: the main characteristic of it is attitude formation for a specific group of people and/or involvement in employment of people who carry out agricultural activities at the place of agricultural activity.





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Social farms = the source of mental and physical well-being and attitude formation

Definition	Device system
→ based on the principle of social solidarity,	→ involving/benefiting disadvantaged people
→ form of cooperative management	→ agricultural producer, processor, service provider
→ which also has an attitude-forming role	→ informative and educational activities

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The primary target group of social farms consists of two subgroups:

- a) Persons in need of care who are unable to improve their situation without help (disadvantaged people, people with altered workability, children placed in the child protection system, convicts, refugees and patronized people). According to their characteristics and needs, training, employment, socialization, resocialization, habilitation, and rehabilitation services can be provided to them.
- b) Among other things, environmental education, development of knowledge and skills related to equal opportunities, and health promotion services can be provided to the younger generation (kindergarten students, students of educational institutions, and volunteers). The secondary target group of social farms is the wider community, whose members can find educational, leisure or employment benefits in social farming. The services that can be provided to them: development of knowledge and skills related to environmental awareness, sustainability, equal opportunities, opportunity-creating programs, prevention, lifestyle, health promotion.

The operator of a social farm can be an individual entrepreneur, a business association and an individual company, a primary producer, a social association, a body appointed by the Government to perform the tasks of maintaining social institutions, a local government, an association of local governments (state operator), a non-governmental organization (foundation, association), ecclesiastical legal entity.

The quality of life of the target groups can be significantly improved by the activities carried out on the social farm. Along the dimensions of Rahman's complex quality of life model, the development of family and friendship relationships, emotional well-being, and the feeling of belonging to the local community can be formed; improvement in health; improvement of the financial situation; the balanced, green environment strengthens the feeling of personal security; farms improve the quality of the environment in the case of environmentally conscious or organic farming. Social farming can also bring benefits to farmers. The farm becomes more open to the outside world, with groups and individuals regularly coming to visit or work. Caring, leisure and educational services can offer the economy new sources of income. Farmers can make new connections and friendships and learn new skills by coordinating the work of farm helpers.





For the new activities, the infrastructure must be created, mentally prepared to receive the new arrivals, time must be spent to the planning and implementation of the activities. It may be expedient to precisely demarcate the spaces open to the farm helpers and the private spaces of the farmer (family). Social farms can create new job opportunities for the countryside and reveal its values to the outside world.

**The legal framework for the implementation of the complex model of the social farm is currently not available in our country.**

**The key aspects of the problem:**

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| I.   | Definition of social farm: Legal incorporation of the social farm's definition  |
| II.  | Recognition of "social farm service" as an agricultural (supplementary) activity  |
| III. | Recognition of the Social Farm community as a group performing agricultural activities operated by organizations/institutions bringing together social and other vulnerable groups with the involvement of the target group (for example: community of small producers of disadvantaged people with special legal status = rehabilitation farm) |
| IV.  | The solution to the land use and land utilization of the Social Farm community - which creates opportunities for the operation of social farms  |

The primary goal of establishing legal environment favourable to the social farm is the creation of a new system of economic enhancing tools, which, by expanding its activities, benefits both existing farmers and organizations that assist disadvantaged target groups and perform other basic social activities.

Our aim is to make the rural environment attractive, to involve the disadvantaged in passive care and to spread the active, work-based vision widely.

According to our vision, the expansion of the number of social farms and their development can bring the following more important results: the retaining power of the countryside increases; appreciation of farmers; the quality of life of the disadvantaged improves; the national expansion of social farms can generate job creation for thousands of people; opportunities for rehabilitation and employment of social, child protection, health service providers and institution maintainers are expanded; commitment to nature widens; social integration is developing significantly in practice. We hope to be able to report on hundreds of social farms within a few years.

In order to achieve this goal, in addition to the legal proposals, we suggest the establishment of social farm "startup" support; starting a system to help institutionalize the presentation of good examples; we also established the Hungarian Social Farm Association.

The primary goal of the association, according to our plans, is to operate and develop the network of social farms and to represent the domestic social farms. In order to ensure and communicate quality activities, the Hungarian Social Farm Certification Trademark was registered.





## 1.2. Legislative amendment proposals

The list below shows our "most pressing" and important proposals for changes in agricultural regulations:

1. Proposal: placement in the Land Transfer Act (Act CXXII of 2013 on the transfer of agricultural and forestry land)

- the definition of agricultural activity (e.g. matching the list of additional activities) as a social farm service activity

- regarding the exceptions for land lease holders ("does not qualify as transfer of use"), the inclusion of the social farm as an organization that combines a form of activity as a fourth actor among the exceptions

- In connection with this, it would be advisable (in the framework of the 38/2014. legislation (II. 24.)) to settle the rules for the recognition and registration of social farms within the framework of a government decree or within the framework of another new decree.

2. Proposal: on the basis of the strategic plan of Hungary's „KAP” 2023-2027, which supports solidarity farms and solidarity farming, Solidarity farming should be included in the subsidy decree, when defining the range of beneficiaries. An excellent opportunity to lay the foundation for the development process.

3. Proposal: In the small producer decree (FVM decree 52/2010. (IV. 30.)) on the conditions of small producer food production, production and sale), social farms should be included alongside small producer individuals as a group of "small producer communities", where e.g. at least 50% of the involved people are disadvantaged. Therefore, to extend the scope of the small producer regulation to persons operating social farms. With all of this, the operating conditions of the rehabilitation farms would be created!

4. Proposal: the social farm and its details should be defined in the upcoming Plant Regulation Decree. It is an important opportunity to clarify unclear questions.

5. Proposal: during the amendment of the Hygiene Decree (FVM-EüM joint decree 64/2007 (VII. 23.) on the food hygiene conditions for placing food of animal origin on the market and food production at the point of sale), there may be a chance to in connection with designated marginal activity, include the reference to social farms and to broaden it to other product ranges.

