



Call for Applications: Participation in Farmers Market 2025

The Malta Food Agency invites farmers, registered farmers and eligible organisations of farmers, fishermen and producers to express their interest in applying to participate in the in officially recognised Farmers Markets, in accordance with Malta's **Farmers' Markets Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 117.31)**.

The Farmers Market aims to provide an accessible platform that enables local farmers and producers to sell their agricultural products directly to consumers. This model ensures fair remuneration for farmers and producers while providing consumers with access to fresh, high-quality produce at competitive prices. Additionally, the Farmers Market fosters transparency and trust by facilitating direct communication between producers and consumers, allowing for a deeper understanding of product origins and quality.

Interested individuals, organisations, cooperatives, associations and representative groups are encouraged to submit their applications together with the requested documents based on the following guidelines and eligibility criteria.

Basic information on the Markets

Stalls/Spaces available

Farmers Market Ta' Qali: **30 stalls**

Farmers Market Kottonera: **15 stalls**

Malta Food Agency reserves the right to increase the amount of stalls, if along the way circumstances will allow such to be held. The next in line from the waiting list will be contacted.

The space for the stall as specified by the current legislation (30m²) will be provided by the Agency. To make better use of the available area, the site's practicality will also be considered. If the permit holder does not demonstrate a commitment to operate his/her stall at the Farmers Market as stipulated in S.L. 117.31, the Malta Food Agency retains the authority to provide the stall or space to the next applicant on the waiting list.

In order to ensure variety of products offered for sale from the markets set, the applications will be received under different categories:

- 1. Fresh fruit and vegetables (including mushrooms) – 50 %**
- 2. Animal husbandry products: meat (pork, ovine, bovine, poultry), eggs and dairy products – 25 %**
- 3. Secondary Products and Honey, Olive Oil, Carob syrup: 15%**
- 4. Organic: 10 % (MCCAA organic farming certification needed)**

The percentages mentioned above are there to serve as a reference and the Malta Food Agency retains the right to alter them accordingly if the number of eligible applications for a particular category falls short of the target number.

Opening Days and Time of Farmers Markets

Farmers Market Ta' Qali*:

Location: Triq San Ġakbu, H'Attard

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FsHxfEVXDQ4cWE4h9>

Opening hours and days: Tuesdays and Saturdays from **07:00 – 15:00**

*MFA is in process to find an alternative location in view of the new farmers market project.

Farmers Market Kottonera:

Location: Triq il-Ġublew tal-Fidda, Birgu/Bormla.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/55Jos6yJzSN6HxHcA>

Opening hours and day: Saturdays from **07:00 – 11:30**

Stands are to be set and operative as from 07:00 am.

Definitions

For the purpose of this document, the below definitions are to be considered as per the intentions of the S.L. 117.31.

“Local agricultural produce” means any agricultural produce which is cultivated or grown in Malta, or fish landed in Malta, and shall include products derived directly from such local agricultural, animal husbandry or fisheries primary produce;

“Permit holder” means a person or entity in possession of a permit to operate a stall within a Farmers Market;

“Samples” means a certain portion, number of containers or product units collected from a particular lot of the same food or food source;

“Applicant” means any person or entity applying for the allocation of a stall to participate in a Farmers Market.

Eligibility and Selection Preferences

Farmers, producers, organisations, cooperatives and representative groups eligible to apply for a permit to operate a stall in a Farmers' Market must meet the following criteria:

1. Eligibility Requirements:

- a) A person registered as a full-time or part-time farmer. By end of year 2025 the person is to provide certificate of categorisation of one of the categories 3, 4 or 5 as per S.L. 639.10¹ published in 2024.
- b) Organisations, cooperatives, associations and representative groups constituted within the agriculture or fisheries sector which sell agricultural produce cultivated or grown in Malta by its members; or sell fish landed in Malta by its members; or produce products being direct derivatives of local agricultural, animal husbandry or fisheries primary produce.
- c) A person producing products that are direct derivatives of local agricultural, animal husbandry, or fisheries primary produce.

2. Ineligibility Clause:

Individuals holding licenses for **street hawking, market hawking, peddling, or busking** under the Trading Licences Regulations (S.L. 441.07) or **possessing permits or licenses** to purchase agricultural produce from an agricultural marketing centre, namely Pitkalija are **not eligible** to obtain a permit to operate a stall at Farmers' Markets or to act as substitutes or assistants to permit holders.

To be eligible, applicants must provide a clean Police conduct certificate issued by the Commissioner of Police in accordance with the Conduct Certificates Ordinance dated not earlier than one (1) month from the date of application.

Preferences for Selection

During the selection process, preference will be given to:

- 1) Organisations, cooperatives, associations and representative groups constituted within the agriculture or fisheries sector which sell agricultural produce cultivated or grown locally by its members; or produce products being direct derivatives of local agricultural, animal husbandry or fisheries primary produce; or sell fish landed in Malta.
- 2) Registered full-time and part-time farmers not in possession of a permit to operate a stall at another Farmers' Market.
- 3) Farmers, producers and entities offering diverse, innovative and seasonal products that enhance the variety available at the markets.

¹ Subsidiary Legislation 639.10 Categorisation of Farmers Regulations

Selection Process

The selection will proceed as follows:

1. Submission of Applications:

- Interested farmers, organisations, cooperatives, associations and representative groups must complete the official Application Form, which can be downloaded from the Malta Food Agency's official website <https://foodagency.mt> or collected personally from the Market Regulation Office of the Malta Food Agency (Monday to Friday between 08.00 am and 12.00 pm) and submit together with the requested documentation in person at the same office (Monday to Friday between 08.00 am and 12.00 pm) or by email at farmersmarket@gov.mt.
- The Malta Food Agency reserves the right to call for a face to face interview with the applicants, to hold a site inspection to view the production and storage of the products intended to be sold and, if necessary, to collect samples of products intended to be sold to determine whether the product reaches the desired standards.

2. Evaluation of Applications:

- Submissions will be assessed by an **evaluation committee** based on compliance with eligibility requirements and selection preferences outlined in Subsidiary Legislation 117.31.

3. Notification and Confirmation:

- Successful applicants will be notified and required to confirm participation by signing an agreement detailing the terms, including stall fees, operational guidelines, and compliance requirements. The signed agreements and permit payment must reach the Agency no later than two weeks from the date of notification.

4. Number of Applications

- If the number of eligible applications exceeds available stalls, a grading system will be applied based on the preferences aforementioned. Once all applications are reviewed, a public meeting will be held and those applications having the same level of preference/score will be drawn by lot.

5. Waiting List

- The first applicants drawn will be offered a space at a Farmers Market based on availability while the remaining applicants will be placed on a waiting list. The Malta Food Agency will inform all applicants of their position on the list. When a stall becomes vacant or a new market is established, the first applicant on the waiting list will be contacted.

6. Stall Number and Location

- The locations and stall numbers at the Farmers Market will be assigned to the permit holders by the Malta Food Agency.

Operational Guidelines

1. Permit Issuance and Waiting List:

- **Specific Stall Allocation:** A permit issued under these regulations is associated with one specific stall within a particular Farmers' Market.

2. Permit Renewal:

- **Three-Year Renewal:** Permit holders must apply for the renewal of their permit every three years in January. Renewals will be subject to compliance verification with permit conditions and the regulations.

3. Annual Permit Fee:

- The annual fee of **€77.00** for the permit will be due on January 1st of each year. The Market Regulation Unit of the Malta Food Agency will inform the permit holder of this fee, with 45 days allowed for payment. If the permit holder fails to pay the annual fee, the Agency may withdraw his/her permit.

4. Conditions of Permit:

- **Non-transferability:** Permits are non-transferable.
- **Other Legal Requirements:** Holders of a permit must comply with all other applicable laws.
- **Permit Listing:** A list of permit holders will be published in the Government Gazette.

5. Stall Operation Rules:

- **Identification:** Permit holders, substitutes, and assistants must wear identification tags at all times.
- **Sales Records:** Permit holders must maintain a record of all sales and produce offered at the stall, available for inspection upon request.
- **Stall Conditions:** Permit holders are required to maintain their stalls and vehicles in good condition, ensure hygiene and cleanliness, and adhere to public health standards.

6. Substitute and Assistant Rules:

- **Substitutes:** A permit holder may nominate one substitute, who will manage the stall in their absence. The substitute does not become a permit holder.
- **Assistants:** Additional assistants may be nominated, with their names submitted to the Agency.
- **Permit holders, Substitutes and Assistants cannot hold an active license** for street hawking, market hawking, peddling, or busking under the Trading Licences

Regulations (S.L. 441.07), or possessing permits or licenses to purchase agricultural produce (HRC, Hawker) from an agricultural marketing centre, namely Pitkalija.

Application Procedure

1. Required Documentation:

Applicants must submit a signed application using the prescribed form, which must include the following information:

- Name, address, and contact details of the applicant.
- Photocopy of the ID card of the applicant.
- Certificate of Police Conduct of the applicant.
- Food handling certificate of the applicant, substitute and assistants.
- VAT fiscal registration number.
- Vehicle registration number and size
- Nomination of substitutes and assistants including a copy of their ID Card (where applicable).
- Description of the agricultural produce to be sold.
- Employment History from Jobsplus of the applicant
- Crop Plan
- Details of agricultural land on behalf of the applicant - Parcel ID, I.A.C.S. registration certificate (If the agricultural lands are not registered in the applicant's name, an affidavit from a Notary Public is required) where applicable.
- Official recognition of Organisation, Cooperative, Association or Representative Group where applicable (registration, foundation deed, statute, details of board members, legal representative and contact person).
- If selling products that are direct derivatives of local agricultural, animal husbandry, or fisheries primary produce, the applicant needs to produce the respective certification/permit/licence from the competent authorities.
- If selling organic products, the applicant needs to produce the MCCA organic farming certification. Applicants that have commenced the process for organic farming certification with MCCA can produce proof showing the status of his/her application process.

2. Application Review:

- The **Agency** will acknowledge receipt of the application upon submission if submitted by hand. Applications submitted electronically will be acknowledged within 24 hrs,

excluding Saturdays and Sundays. The applicants will be informed of their eligibility after the applications are assessed by the Evaluation Committee.

3. Help and Guidance:

- The Market Regulation team of the Malta Food Agency will be available to answer all questions and provide further guidance on this call for applications. Please contact us on 2292 6714, 2292 6719, or 2292 6713 between 08:00 am and 12:00 pm, Monday to Friday.
- Anyone who needs assistance filling out the application should schedule an appointment by calling 2292 6714, 2292 6719, or 2292 6713 between 08:00 am and 12:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Additional Information

- **Opening Date for Submissions: 3rd February 2025**
- **Deadline for Submissions: 3rd March 2025**
- **Notification of Results: 28th March 2025**

Application Submission

Applications can be submitted via:

- **Email:** farmersmarket@gov.mt
- **Postal Mail:** Market Regulation Unit
Malta Food Agency
Triq il-Pitkali
Attard ATD 4000
- **In-Person Delivery:** Market Regulation Unit
Malta Food Agency
Triq il-Pitkali
Attard ATD 4000

Applications by hand can be received from Monday to Friday between 08.00 and 12.00 hrs.