

## **Information on the Role and Activities of the Ministry of Rural Development**

The Ministry of Rural Development is a central state administration body that falls under the direct control of the Government. The Minister in charge of the Ministry determines the main trends with regard to agricultural and rural development policy, and is responsible for food chain control supervision, the food industry, forest management, property registration, mapping, land management, game management, fish management, environmental protection, conservation and water management.

The most important tasks of the Ministry also include the legal regulation of the certification of plants and animals, the preservation of plant and animal breeds, and the creation of genetic resource banks; the supervision of plant and animal health, the preservation and development of biological bases; plant and soil protection. In addition to supporting the competitiveness of the agricultural and food economies, the Ministry is also assigned with establishing the required intellectual infrastructure, providing the foundations for education, professional training, research and development, and adult education within the sector, as well as playing an active part in both international and local environmental training and awareness programmes.

The main objectives of the Ministry of Rural Development are the strengthening of rural communities, the enhancement of their quality of life, the development of opportunities for local distribution, the increasing of job opportunities, higher employment, sustainable natural resource management, multifunctional agriculture, and the creation of a safe, high quality food supply in Hungary.

In addition to the above, the Minister for Rural Development also cultivates international relations and broadens opportunities for social debate within the country.

The Ministry oversees a diverse system of institutions and close to fifty fiscal bodies, which efficiently serve the realisation of government measures. These include the Agricultural and Rural Development Agency, which operates as a support body, and the Central Agriculture Office, which performs an administrative and supervisory function; the National Environment and Water Authority and its regional bodies, which play the role of green authority; the National Waste Management Agency; the National Land Fund Management Organisation; various institutes for research within the sector, public education and training, and the national park authorities.