

Short title in English	The National Federation of Farmers
Country	Macedonia
<p>Short summary for practitioners in English on the (final or expected) outcomes (1000-1500 characters, word count – no spaces).</p> <p>This summary should at least contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Main results/outcomes of the activity (expected or final) – The main practical recommendation(s): what would be the main added value/benefit/opportunities to the end-user if the generated knowledge is implemented? How can the practitioner make use of the results? <p>This summary should be as interesting as possible for farmers/end-users, using <u>a direct and easy understandable language</u> and pointing out entrepreneurial elements which are particularly relevant for practitioners (e.g. related to cost, productivity etc). Research oriented aspects which do not help the understanding of the practice itself should be avoided.</p>	<p>The National Federation of Farmers (NFF) is a unit of Macedonian farmers who work to solve problems in agriculture and raise the voice of small-scale farmers, marginalised groups and the rural population within the society. Although small, the Federation is the biggest group NGO of its kind in Macedonia. They take the problems from the fields, analyse them, make recommendations, and start the lobbying process in front of the institutions.</p> <p>The NFF advocacy activities and demand of accountability from policy makers has united women in rural areas in the fight against discriminatory policy measures and full realisation of their rights.</p> <p>They are currently making a focus group in rural areas with the farmers attracting women and young farmers, in order to produce things together, and then sell together to the local markets. They have a group that sells vegetables, another group sells ‘madzun’ (sweet from grape), the third group sells traditional Macedonia pasta, and the fourth group prepares conventional Macedonian food and sells mountain tea.</p> <p>One of the biggest challenges the NFF had to overcome was to convince the men that women should be a part of the organisation, part of the management boards and operating at the highest levels of the Federation.</p> <p>The Federation has now become a very good example of an organisation that is gender-representative within Macedonia. The Federation has also received recognition as a model example of a CSO in the country in terms of gender representation and internal democracy in the organisation.</p>