



Ministério da
Agricultura,
do Desenvolvimento
Rural e das Pescas

DGADR
Direcção-Geral
de Agricultura e
Desenvolvimento Rural

How to build farmers voluntary agreements on the cultivation of specific types in an agricultural area?

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Order n. 904/2006, of 4 September, amended by Order n. 1611/2007 of 20 December

Lays down the conditions and procedure for establishing areas free from the cultivation of genetically modified varieties





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Basic Principles

Farmers should be able to:

Freely choose the method of agricultural production to be used

and to establish:

- Areas for the production of genetically modified varieties
- or
- Areas free from the cultivation of genetically modified varieties





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GM PRODUCTION ZONES

Farmers cultivating GM varieties may be exempted to apply the technical measures to minimise the adventitious presence of pollen or mechanical mixtures, if production areas of GM varieties are established.

For that purpose farmers have to voluntary associate for the cultivation:

- In exclusively GM varieties

or

- To produce agricultural products that are intended to be mixed in lots to be labelled as containing GMO.





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Basic Principles

Local authorities

Given the widely expressed interest of local authorities in participating in the process of establishing free areas, and in accordance with local rural development policies which frequently require a wide-ranging analysis of the whole municipal context in order to determine whether establishing a free area is appropriate within a framework of sustained development, **the local authorities must be able to request the declaration of the establishment of free areas throughout the municipality.**



Free areas:

Agricultural areas where genetically modified varieties of a specific plant species are not cultivated

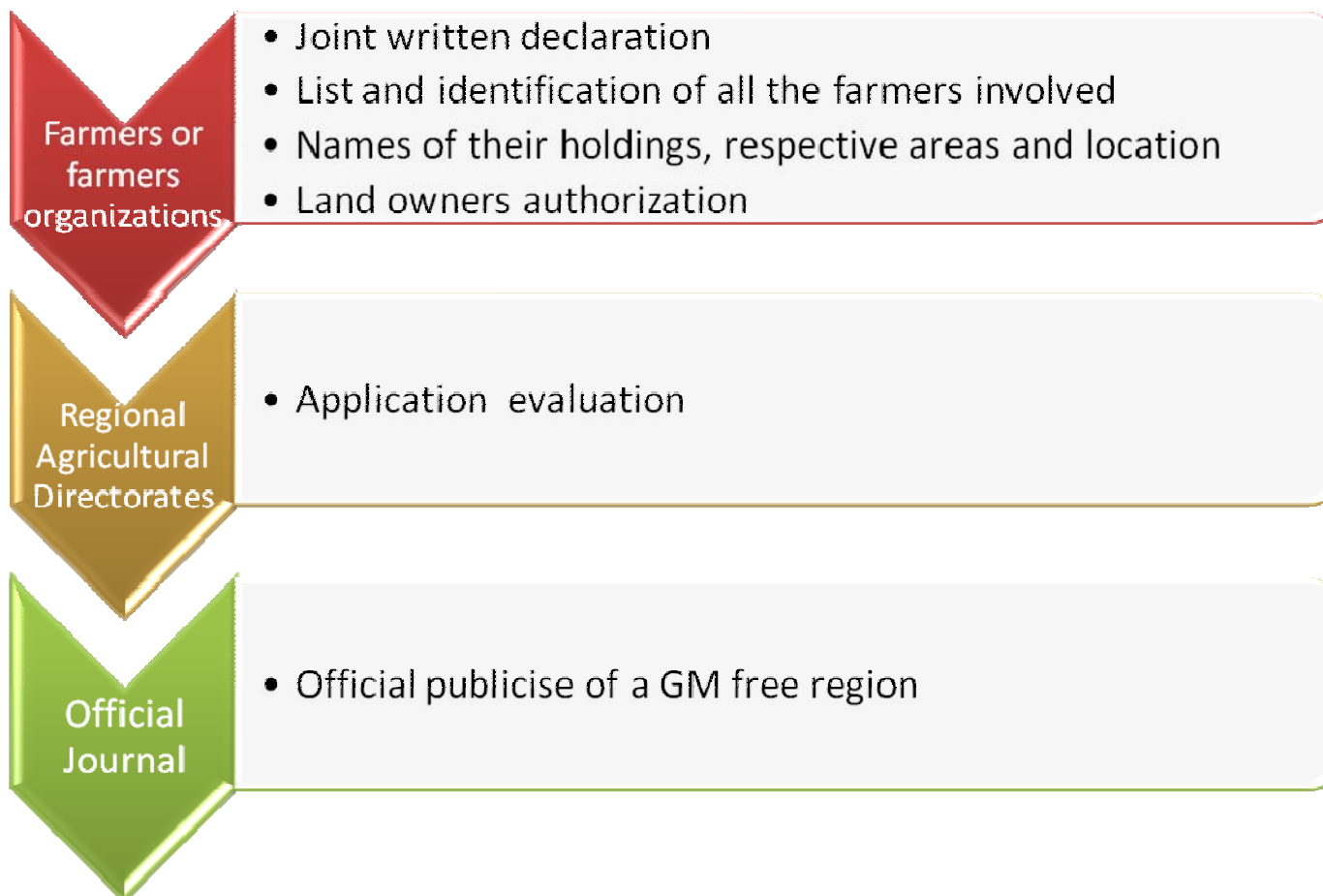
Establishment of a free area:

The act whereby the Regional Agriculture Directorates publicise that, on a given holding, within a group of holdings or in the area of a local authority, genetically modified varieties of a certain species will not be cultivated.



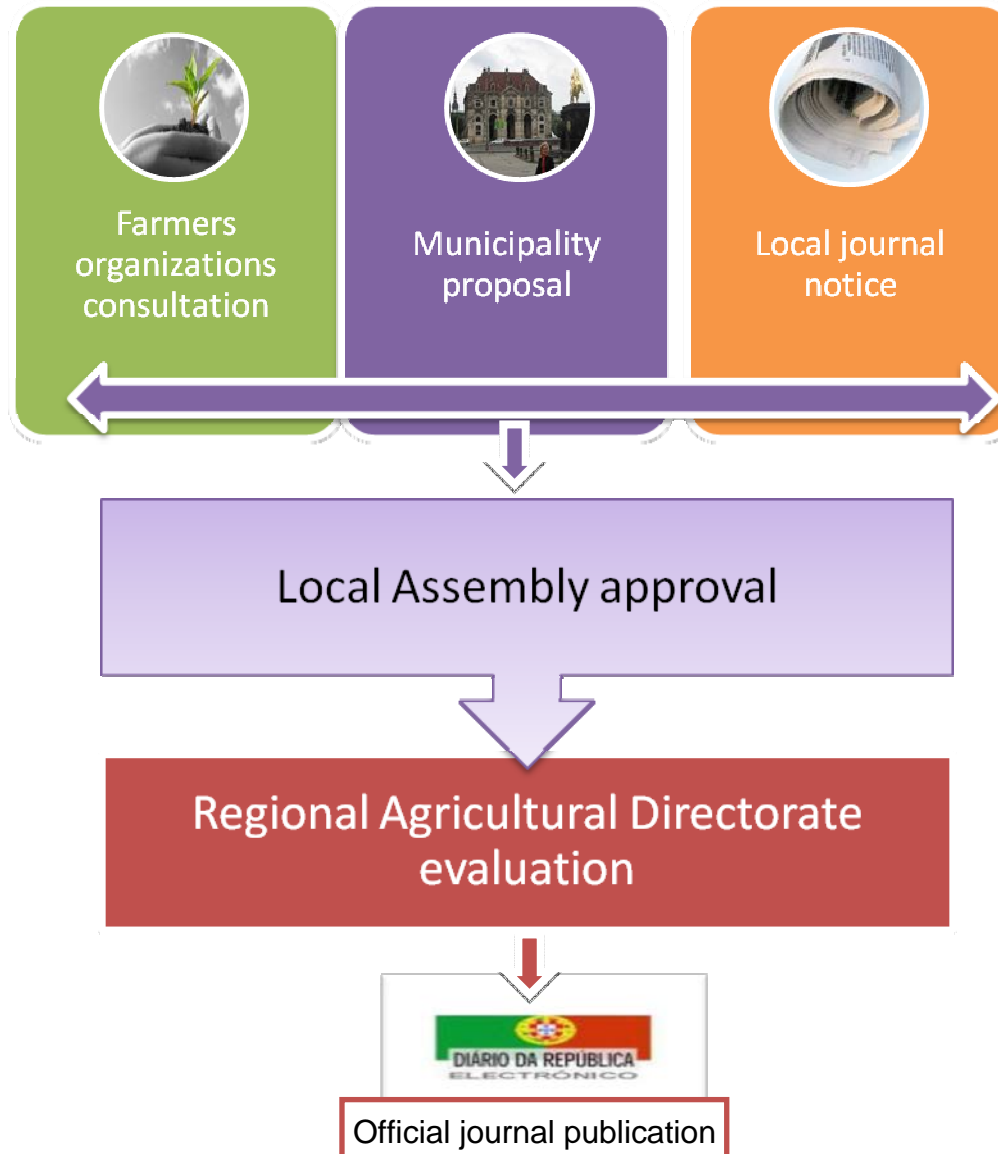


Farmers initiative procedure





Local Municipality initiative



Minimum area and period of validity

Minimum area:

- 3 000 hectares

Period of validity:

- 5 years, that can be renewed or cancelled





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Renewal

The renewal application:

- Shall be submitted to the Regional Agriculture Directorate, 30 days prior to the end of the specified period of validity, signed by all the farmers requesting this.
- May include an alteration to the list of farmers involved or to the area of the established free area, submitting the necessary documentation for the new area proposed and the written declaration of the withdrawing farmers or the new farmers, and provided that the total minimum area imposed is respected.



Expiry of the decision:

- The period of validity has expired and the respective renewal application has not been submitted or has been refused
- The respective cancellation application is submitted by all the applicants
- The joint written declaration has been breached, particularly due to the cultivation of a genetically modified variety on any holding within the free area.





Farmers can publicise, through an official body, that, due to their voluntary decision, genetically modified varieties will not be cultivated on their holdings.

The Regional Agriculture Directorates are the competent bodies to receive and assess the applications to establish areas free from the cultivation of genetically modified varieties and, as a result, to publicise them.

The continued existence of an established free area will essentially depend on compliance with the declaration which the farmers had made and concluded between them.





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Thank you