

PRESS RELEASE

Second annual Intesa Farmer competition completed

Banca Intesa selected best farmers in 2014

Belgrade, December 17, 2014 – Banca Intesa has declared the winners of the second annual Intesa Farmer competition, a selection for best farmers in the following categories: vegetable growing, crop farming, fruit growing and cattle breeding. Following decision of a jury of experts, Stipan Štrangar from Bački Monoštor has been declared a winner of the competition Intesa Farmer 2014 in the category of Intesa Crop Farmer, Milan Tomović from Koštunići in the category of Intesa Vegetable Grower, Tatjana Horvat from Donji Tavankut in the category of Intesa Fruit Grower and Mikloš Balaš from Čantavir in the category of Intesa Cattle Breeder.

Banca Intesa has awarded the best participants in the competition with study trips to the International Fair of Agriculture SIA, in Paris (Salon International de l'Agriculture), which is taking place in February 2015, as well as with gift-vouchers in the amount of 100,000 RSD for the purchase of raw materials or fodder at partner companies.

“In a year when a substantial number of farmers have faced with the decline in yield as the best case scenario due to bad weather conditions that were not recorded in recent history, it was even more difficult to find those who have managed to maintain a continuum in operations on representative level and to achieve enviable business results. This is precisely the reason why, in my opinion, all participants in this year's Intesa Farmer competition are winners already because they have managed to adjust their operations to conditions that are somewhat more difficult and to achieve a desired growth”, the member of Banca Intesa's Executive Board and the Manager of Retail and Small Business Division Darko Popović said.

237 agricultural producers who are Banca Intesa's clients applied for the second Intesa Farmer contest, and the jury selected winners based on the annual results achieved through agricultural production, involvement of their family members in production process, storage capacity, the implementation of modern technologies and promptness in meeting payments to the Bank.

The expert jury of Intesa Farmer project comprises Jasmina Nikitović Stojičić, the Editor of “Znanje Imanje” TV show, Prof. PhD Miladin M. Švarlić, Chairman of the Serbian Association of Agricultural Economists, Predrag Milenović, Head of Small Business Division at Banca Intesa, Đorđe Radulović, Head of Agriculture Office at Banca Intesa, Aleksandar Stanišić, specialist for agricultural loans at Banca Intesa and Vojislav Živanović, Marketing Specialist at Banca Intesa.

In 2013, Banca Intesa launched the Intesa Farmer project wishing to promote agriculture as an exceptionally important segment for the country's economic development, and to contribute in yet another way to the strengthening of Serbia's agricultural competitiveness, both in the region and internationally.

Aware of the importance of agriculture sector and its role in economic recovery of the country, in 2014, the Bank, being one of most active banks, participated in the Government's program for the approval of subsidised loans to farmers, having approved around 1,250 loans. Also, during the course of the year, it continued the cooperation with the Guarantee Fund of the AP Vojvodina in several loan arrangements while 20 special credit lines were approved to municipalities and towns all over Serbia.

During first 11 months this year, Banca Intesa approved over 5,000 loans to registered agricultural estates in the amount of around 22 million EUR, having thus increased a total portfolio of agricultural loans since the start of the year by more than 10 percent. Taking into account the period since 2008, when the bank started financing this segment of clients, nearly 28,000 loans have been allocated, totalling around 150 million EUR.

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Banca Intesa ad Beograd, member of **INTESA  SANPAOLO**, is the leader in domestic market, reliable partner for 1.65 million clients, natural and legal entities. With net balance sheet amount of nearly 4 billion euros, total deposits of 2.5 billion euros and total placements of 2.5 billion euros, Banca Intesa Belgrade is leading the list of the biggest banks in Serbia. Owing to a developed business network of 179 branches across Serbia, the most developed network of ATMs and POS terminals and professional team of 3,000 employees, the bank is achieving considerable growth in all business areas. Banca Intesa is developing its business activities in five directions: retail and small business operations, corporate banking, local self-government and investment banking.