



# Arab companies second in number of hectares in Serbia?



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***Arab companies will have in Serbia, if the company Al Dahra buys the Agricultural Corporation Belgrade (PKB), owns and leases about 27,000 hectares, so after Petar Matijevic, owner of the company Matijevic, which cultivates about 30,000 hectares, these companies will manage the highest country in Serbia , writes Vojvodina Research and Analytical Center (VOICE)***

Arab and Arab-Serbian agricultural companies in Serbia - Al Rawafed (Al Rawafed), Al Dahra and Yugo Ellite Agro (Yugo Ellite Agro) currently have a long-term lease of 30 years, or own about 10,000 hectares.

Al Dahra was the only one to submit a bid for PKB. "If they get PKB, the previous, long-standing constellation of forces in Serbian fields will change. Businessman Miodrag Kostić, whose MK group now owns and leases about 25,000 hectares, will be pushed out of the second place. Below him, in the fourth position, will be Miroslav Aleksa, founder and owner of the company Almex (Almex) from Pancevo, which cultivates about 18,000 hectares, then Miroslav Miskovic and his Delta agrarian with about 14,000 hectares, and Krsta Coric, owner of Coric agrarian, with about 10,000 hectares ", states VOICE.

PKB's property consists of about 17,000 hectares of agricultural land, about 70 kilometers of canal irrigation network, about 17,000 head of livestock, as well as machinery - harvesters and tractors. It currently employs about 1,700 workers, and the starting price is 104.5 million euros.

The application deadline for the purchase of PKB expired on September 10 this year, and the conditions were unattainable for domestic buyers - namely, they should have independently or on a consolidated level generated revenue of at least 400 million euros in the last business year, which Serbian businessmen did not comply.

**"Land grabbing"**

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VOICE reminded that Al Dahra is one of the companies often mentioned in the reports of organizations dealing with the issue of "land grabbing", as well as in the reports of the European Parliament.

Economic journalist Miša Brkić assessed that the approach to the privatization of PKB is not good because only one participant in the tender "implies failure and should be annulled".

"It simply came to our notice then. "Especially if we keep in mind that Al Dahra is a company that has caused a lot of controversy in the public, that it is about land, that it is one bidder," said Brkić.

Professor of the Faculty of Economics in Belgrade, Ljubodrag Savic, said that it was not known what Al Dahra's real intentions were and added that he had the impression that they were most interested in land, and that they were not in the mood for part of livestock, because it is a serious and demanding activity.

"The earth is the only resource that lasts indefinitely, everything else passes. The factory is technologically obsolete, time is running out, new technologies are coming... The earth is here. We are depriving ourselves of an incredible resource. In the near future, some part of Belgrade will be built there in the coming decades. When we look at it that way, from the point of view of the eternal resource and the fact that in 50 years it can have a much higher price, we should put our finger on our forehead and ask ourselves whether we should have sold it ", stated Savić.

[voice.org](https://www.voice.org)

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