

LIFELONG LEARNING - SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURS WITHIN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The particular problem addressed by this project is the fact that people employed in the agricultural sector need to adapt to changing environments. Farmers are particularly vulnerable because of possible crises in agriculture. The idea is to strengthen their positions by making them aware of their skills and competences and by further improving their potential weaknesses. In this way they are more secure of surviving crises and becoming self-sufficient.

The current economic situation asks for transferable social and interpersonal competences like communication, organisational skills, crisis management, teamwork and flexibility. The employability of individuals as well as the force of entrepreneurship are increasingly dependent on the development of these competences.

The Ministry of Agriculture aims at restructuring the rural sector for the whole territory. The main emphasis is on the farmers themselves because they have the opportunities to engage in a stronger future by being able to work in a sustainable and responsible way. This is why it is important to make them aware of their skills and the specific competences they need to develop.

Farmers need to be engaged in life long learning, and this needs to be done in an individualised and tailored way because every farmer focuses on specific priorities within agriculture. There is also a need to make them conscious of corporate social responsibility in order to make farmers responsible entrepreneurs. The DP is therefore getting farmers involved in sustainable development by making them responsible themselves instead of opposing rules imposed from above.

The DP focuses on strengthening the position of farmers by developing knowledge and skills which will contribute to entrepreneurship. This is underpinned by activities that challenge inequality in the labour market and within labour organisations. These activities focus on addressing conventional gender relations, and also acknowledging the competencies gained in the workplace.

By means of assessing their own competencies beneficiaries will learn how to make a personal competence profile, as well as a personal development plan. To realise the development plan, training and coaching are important activities. This will give entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector insight in the competences needed to succeed, and equip them with the ability to analyse their own competencies.

DP information

Member State: Netherlands

DP Identifier: NL-2001/EQE/0027

Link to [EQUAL database description](#)

All comments and information should be emailed to empl-equal-etg3@ec.europa.eu