

GREECE

Implementing Local Development Strategies

Location

Epitalio, Pyrgos

Programming period

2007-2013

Axis / Priority

Axis 4 – LEADER

Measure

M312 via Axis 4

Funding

Total budget 211 519 EUR
EAFRD 120 566 EUR
National/region. 6 346 EUR
Private 84 608 EUR

Project duration

Jun 2013 – Dec 2015

Project promoter

DELI AEBE

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A biofuel production and packaging line was established using EAFRD funding in an olive grove farming region of Greece. The waste residues are utilised to produce biofuel pellets offering considerable economic and environmental benefits.

Summary

The region of Ilia is a major olive grove farming region in Greece with more than 1 000 000 trees. The residues from harvesting olives for oil production which is more than 20 000 tonnes are destroyed or remain unused. Though burning is banned due to its risk to the environment, it is still a common practice. However, these residues could be used as an environmentally friendly source of fuel.



A biofuel production unit that processes olive residues was set up and LEADER support helped with the purchase of the necessary machinery and equipment. Specifically, the company set up a complete line for producing and packaging biofuel (PELLET) where initially the raw material is cut, crushed, dried, pressed and finally weighed and packaged. The biofuel pellets are packed in bags but are also available in bulk. The capacity of the plant amounts to 700 kg per hour; around 5 400 tonnes of raw material will produce around 4 000 tonnes of product. The company' advanced plans are to place its product, on both the internal and external markets.

Results

The use of the biofuel in the region is having a beneficial impact on the environment and is making good use of an otherwise unused source material.

The pellet production facility is generating significant economic benefits for olive grove farmers who now receive payment for collecting and delivering waste material.

Moreover, six jobs were created at the production unit.

Lessons & Recommendations

- This investment recognises the advantages of managing and carrying out energy recovery of waste resulting from the processing of olives (pruning, oleophilic treatment etc.) and other agricultural residues.
- Investing in biofuel production can represent a great economic boost for a region's economy.
- Utilising a waste material as a fuel source can help meet the energy requirements of local businesses and households, as well as reduce harmful impacts on the environment.