

CROATIA

Improving the economic
performance of all farms
and facilitating farm
restructuring and
modernisation

Location

Bedekovčina

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P2 – Farm Viability and
Competitiveness

Measure

M4 – Investments in physical
assets

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 297 378.35

EAFRD 160 559.32

National/Regional 28 333.99

Private 108 485.04

Project duration

2016 – 2017

Project promoter

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Website

n/a

Investing in new machinery and equipment to allow increase the productivity of a pig farm.

Summary

In August 2015, a family farm owner decided to increase his pig production by purchasing 100 suckling sows in order to focus on pig meat production. The farmer aimed to produce himself the crops needed for livestock feed, and for this reason he also expanded the areas cultivated for crops.



In this context, support from the rural development programme contributed to in purchasing new agricultural machinery and equipment, including a tractor, a front loader and a new vehicle for the transportation of the animals.

Results

Thanks to the investment, the farm achieved its own production of animal feed as well as the easier, safer and faster transportation of fattened pigs to customers with the vehicle.

Carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere were reduced due to reduced fuel consumption.

One new job was created.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The processing of the applications for projects should be done as quickly as possible, so that the bids in the application could still be valid when the final decision on allocation of funds has been issued.

Context

Given that family farm needed to increase production, it was necessary to invest in the modernization of existing agricultural machinery as well as the purchase of a new commercial vehicle. For example, before the project transport of fattening pigs was carried out using an old truck. Also, new equipment was needed for production of farm crops for feeding the animals. Before the implementation of the project, the farm purchased maize and barley for the fattening of the animals. Thus the production of its own crops would ensure lowering production costs and, consequently, higher incomes.

Objectives

Objectives of this project included:

- modernizing of the production process;
- reducing the production costs;
- increasing the efficiency in energy use;
- increasing the soil quality;
- increasing the farm's income.

Activities

All agricultural machinery including tractor with its accompanying equipment, a front loader, a truck from transporting the animals were purchased as planned. In the period from the approval of the project by the Agency of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development until the purchase of the machines in November 2016, there was a change of model and price of the tractor and front loader due to new emission regulations. Therefore, new, better models were delivered in April 2017.

Main results

Thanks to the investment, the farm achieved its own production of animal feed as well as the easier, safer and faster transportation of fattened pigs to customers with the vehicle.

Carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere were reduced due to reduced fuel consumption. Also, the use of more efficient engines means reduced use of energy.

Furthermore, the new machines increased the efficiency in soil management, especially in the application of appropriate agrotechnical measures. For example, the width of the tires on the new tractor spreads the weight evenly on the ground thus reducing soil compaction.

Given the increase in production, in 2016 an employee was hired who is in charge of all farm work. Prior to the implementation of the project almost all the jobs in livestock production were carried out by the holder of the family farm and the household members.

Key lessons

Given the long waiting period from the submission of the request for support (March 16, 2015) to the final approval (22 December 2016), there has been a change in the tractor model in relation to those indicated in the initial offer. For this reason there was also an increase in the prices of the tractors themselves, so it was necessary to invest more of their own funding of the project.

The processing of the applications for projects should be done as quickly as possible, so that the bids in the application could still be valid when the final decision on allocation of funds has been issued.

Additional sources of information

n/a