

LATVIA

farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation

Location

Kandavas

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P2 – Competitiveness

Measure

M04 – Investments in
physical assets

Funding (EUR)

RDP contribution 24 669
Private 37 031

Project duration

2016 – 2016

Project promoter

ZS "KRIKŠI"

Contact

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Website

n/a

A family farm specialising in high quality beef cattle breeding used Rural Development Programme support to acquire new, cost-saving and more environmentally-friendly machinery.

Summary

The Kriksi farm, founded in November 2004, is partly located in the Abava Nature Park in Latvia. The farm's main activity is breeding of organic Charolais beef. In 2008, it was awarded the status of breeder of pure Charolais cattle. As the farm keeps expanding, the owner decided to invest in new machinery to allow the farm to become more efficient, reduce its production costs while at the same time protecting the environment.



Investment support from the Latvian Rural Development Programme (RDP) enabled the farm to purchase machinery including a tedder, a front mower, a grass chopper and a trailer.

Results

The net turnover of the farm increased by at least 10%, or more than half the amount invested in the project.

The production also increased by 10%.

The project helped cut fuel consumption by reducing the number of trips that were necessary to the fields. This also had a positive effect on the growth of the crops and thus on the quality of the feed base.

Context

The Kriksi farm, was founded in November 2004 in the parish of Kandava in the Kandavas county of Latvia. A large part of the farm is located in the Abava Nature Park.

The sole owner and manager of the holding is Santra Celmina, who graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture of the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (Jelgava LLU) in 1996.

The farm's main activity is breeding of organic Charolais beef. The livestock were purchased in 2004 through the project 'Purchase of high-quality animals for the development of pure-bred meat livestock'.

In 2006, the holding, with the support of the early retirement Measure, took over the land and animals of the nearby Uids farm. In 2006, the farm was certified as organic and in 2008 it was awarded the status of breeder of pure Charolais cattle. The farm initially managed 35 hectares of agricultural land. By 2015, it was managing 264.41 hectares.

At present, there are 110 cattle on the farm, including 3 breeding bulls, 41 suckler cows and 12 pregnant heifers, the rest are rearing livestock and young bulls. In the long run, the farm plans to increase the number of suckler cows to 70, paying more attention to the genetic quality of the breeding animals. To improve the management of the fields used for producing feed for the animals, the beneficiary decided to invest in equipment to manage the fields more efficiently and reduce costs.

Objectives

This investment aimed to improve the efficiency of managing the farm's resources and improving the farm's competitiveness while protecting the environment.

Activities

Support from the Latvian RDP helped to acquire a series of machines for managing the farm's land, including:

A hay tedder - once the grass is cut the green mass stays in the channels, which complicates the drying process. With the aid of a tedder, the mass of the grass is spread out and dried in the shortest possible time. In this way, a higher quality hay is obtained.

A front mower - when fitted to the tractor this mower can cut six metres of grass in a single drive. This reduces fuel consumption, the number of trips to the field and saves time.

A grass chopper - used for pasture management and meadow maintenance, as well as for the maintenance of open drainage systems.

A trailer – used to transport the hay rolls to the rented land which is 20 km from the farm. The trailer can carry up to 10 rolls per drive, out of 34 rolls in total.

Fence panels - as the number of animals increased, more grids to manage them were necessary.

Main results

The net turnover of the farm increased by about 10%, or at least half of the amount invested in the project.

The production increased by 10%.

The project helped reduce fuel consumption by reducing the number of trips that were necessary to the fields. This also had a positive effect on the growth of the crops and thus on the quality of the feed base.

Additional sources of information

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IO8IPP9RN8&feature=youtu.be