

POLAND

Agri-food chain integration & quality

Location
Czarnków

Programming period
2014 – 2020

Priority
P3 – Food chain & risk
management

Measure
M04 – Investments in
physical assets

Funding (PLN)
Total budget 1 560 702
EAFRD 496 537
National/Region. 283 814
Private 780 351

Project duration
2018 – 2020

Project promoter
Okręgowa Spółdzielnia
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CAP funds finance dairy development and product diversification in Poland.

Summary

A CAP-funded business investment project has modernised Poland's District Dairy Cooperative of Czarnków using new technology to improve productivity, provide new consumer products, save water, and improve employment conditions.



Results

- Water savings of about 15m³ per day.
- Increased product packaging efficiency by around 50%.
- Launch of a new award-winning homogenised cheese.
- Increased safety of products and production processes.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ CAP support for modernising business competitiveness can create circular economy synergies as well as better working conditions.
- ❑ Good relations with equipment suppliers help to resolve installation and operating problems for new technologies.

Context

The District Dairy Cooperative of Czarnków is one of the leading dairies in Poland and is committed to producing high-quality dairy products with local suppliers who feed their cows a GMO-free diet.

The cooperative recently reached a point where its members wanted to modernize production capacity while protecting product quality and this required an expansion of the premises.

Objectives

This investment project aimed to increase the competitiveness of the cooperative by optimising its production efficiency and improving working conditions.

Activities

As part of the CAP-funded investment, the cooperative installed a Clean-in-Place (CIP) station to clean machinery, vessels, and pipes. The system includes an additional storage tank providing circular economy benefits (water from the final rinse of a previous cycle can be used for the pre-rinsing part of the next). The station has an easy-to-use interface and a high degree of automation, which simplifies the process and makes it possible to adapt cleaning parameters to diverse needs. The cooperative also installed a new cottage cheese packaging machine using a smart space-saving solution, incorporating common components from the cooperative's existing packaging line.

Other CAP-funded purchases included a filling and capping machine and easy-to-use, automated somatic cell counter (to control the quality of raw milk that is delivered by farmers).



Main results

Water savings of 15m³ per day are achieved by the CIP washing station and the new cottage cheese packaging machine has increased packaging efficiency by around 50%. After packing, the product reaches the cold store faster, which means that its physical and chemical properties are more stable. Furthermore, packaging improvements improve efficiency, reduce breakdown risks, and allow for greater flexibility when planning maintenance works.

Thanks to the new packaging machine for bags with caps, it has been possible for the cooperative to launch a new homogenized cheese product called 'Franuś'. This won a Gold Medal in the Consumer's Choice Award during the 2019 Polagra International Fair.

The automatic somatic cell counter has increased product safety. In addition to gathering data relating to the number of somatic cells, the new apparatus also collects information about the optical spectrum of each tested sample. Its readings are more accurate and stable, and it uses newer, different reagents which improve staff safety.

Key lessons

CAP support for modernising business competitiveness can create circular economy synergies as well as better working conditions. Good relations with equipment suppliers help to resolve installation and operating problems for new technologies.

Additional sources of information

www.facebook.com/OSMCzarnkow