

POLAND

Biodiversity restoration, preservation & enhancement

Location

Sanok

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P4 – Ecosystems
management

Measure

M11 – Organic farming

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 87 500
EAFRD 66 000
National/Regional 16 500
Private 5 000

Project duration

2018 – 2022

Project promoter

Tadeusz Rolnik

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Website

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A farmer in a Less Favoured Area turned to organic agriculture and began growing ancient varieties of cereals. He has achieved sustainability through niche, quality production.

Summary

The beneficiary cultivates ancient varieties of cereals, including emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccon*), spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and einkorn wheat (*Triticum monococcum*), as well as buckwheat and melilot.



The farm is located in a Less Favoured Area (LFA). Since the farmer did not want to turn to conventional agriculture, he applied for support under the rural development programme (RDP) measure on organic agriculture. This enabled him to produce high-quality cereals in a sustainable manner.

Results

The beneficiary grows 80 ha of ancient varieties of cereals using organic methods.

The farm has an annual output of 70 tonnes of organic produce. Some 70% is sold and 30% is consumed on-site.

Environmental benefits are achieved by not using plant protection products, artificial fertilisers or hazardous substances.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The beneficiary believes that he would not be able to run the farm in its current form without RDP support.
- ❑ Making a farm profitable in an LFA requires specialisation – look for suitable niche markets.

Context

The beneficiary, Mr. Tadeusz Rolnik, owns a small farm in an area categorised as a Less Favoured Area (LFA). He cultivates ancient varieties of cereals, including emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccon*), spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and einkorn wheat (*Triticum monococcum*), as well as buckwheat and melilot.

Mr. Rolnik decided to specialise in organic agriculture because he could not compete with large-scale intensive farms and he was concerned about the impact of artificial fertilisers and plant protection products on the environment and human health.

Receiving RDP support for organic agriculture would compensate for the loss of income from smaller yields.

Objectives

The aim of the project was to:

- promote healthy and organic food consumption and cultivation;
- show other small-scale farmers the advantages of diversifying into niche crops;
- ensure long-term sustainable farming; and
- raise consumer awareness.

Activities

The beneficiary applied to an organic farming certification body to assess his farm and to a botanist for the preparation of botanical documentation for permanent grasslands.

A farm adviser helped him to compile an agri-environmental-climate action plan. The application for support was submitted to the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (ARMA) (www.arimr.gov.pl/o-arimr/information-about-the-agency.html).

The farm was inspected by the organic farming certification body and the results were directly transmitted to ARMA.

After all the necessary controls and checks were completed. ARMA granted the financial aid.

The farm is also overseen by the Polish Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection (www.ijhar-s.gov.pl/control-proceedings.html).

Main results

The beneficiary grows 80 ha of ancient varieties of cereals using organic methods.

The farm has an annual output of 70 tonnes of organic produce. Some 70% is sold and 30% is consumed on-site.

As well as selling produce, the beneficiary also organises bread baking classes on his farm.

Receiving RDP support for organic agriculture compensates for the loss of income caused by smaller yields.

Environmental benefits are achieved by not using chemical plant protection products, artificial fertilisers and other hazardous substances.

Social benefits include greater public awareness in Poland of the importance of organic food production and consumption.

Key results

Mr. Rolnik believes that he would not be able to run the farm in its current form without RDP support.

Making a farm profitable in an LFA requires specialisation – look for suitable niche markets.

The success of organic agriculture also means investing to raise consumer awareness of the importance of consuming organic food.

“We will be healthy as long as there is the flour in bread, pork meat in pork sausages and hops in beer.”

Tadeusz Rolnik

Additional sources of information

<https://esanok.pl/2018/ekologiczne-dozynki-u-tadeusza-rolnika-w-niebieszczanach-00e2mp.html>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZZEBNRJpWM

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fecvG1h1oIk

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpwSKoXoOtc

www.polskasmakuje.pl/autor/rol.apis.bud/

www.dlaziemiichleba.pl/