

POLAND

Biodiversity's restoration, preservation & enhancement

Location

Piotrków Trybunalski

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P4 - Ecosystems
management

Measure

M11 – Organic farming

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 19 207.66
EAFRD 2 148.63
National/Regional 1 228.14
Private 4 656. 14
Other 11 174.75

Project duration

2015 – 2020

Project promoter

SYLWESTER STANIASZEK

Contact

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Website

n/a

A small farm converted to organic vegetable production and in so doing successfully increased its competitiveness and profitability.

Summary

Sylwester Stanciaszek's farm covers 6.92 ha of arable land, meadows and pastures. Before receiving Rural Development Programme (RDP) support the farm used to grow cereals using conventional farming methods. Investing in organic agriculture gave the farmer the opportunity to increase his farm's competitiveness and profitability.



The farmer grows tomatoes, bell peppers and aubergines in foil tunnels. He also applies intercropping and crop rotation and looks for and reintroduces 'old' species of vegetables such as Jerusalem artichokes and parsnips. Thanks to RDP support he was able to develop his farm and expand the range of processed food he produces to include pickles (cucumber, cabbage) and purée.

Results

The financial aid obtained considerably improved the farm's development possibilities. It helped accelerate the implementation of new technologies, which increased the competitiveness of the farm.

Following on from the success of this project, the beneficiary aims to continue developing and expanding his farm into other areas, such as animal husbandry.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ☐ The development of this farm became a model for local farmers who did not believe in the value and opportunities of organic production. It showed that even a small farm, if converted to organic production, can provide a decent living for a family.

Context

Before joining the Agri-environmental programme for Organic farming, Sylwester Staniaszek's farm, which stretches over 6.92 ha of arable land, meadows and pastures, used to grow cereals. They were used as fodder for a small herd of pigs using conventional farming techniques. For Sylwester Staniaszek human health is very dependent on the quality of the food consumed. For this reason, it is important that food production is based on practices that are in harmony with natural processes such as crop rotation, intercropping, composting or catch cropping.

Objectives

Investing in organic agriculture and offering customers access to a wide range of high quality products, while protecting the environment, enabled the farmer to increase his competitiveness and profitability.

Activities

Once he started receiving support to convert to organic farming, Sylwester Staniaszek began to grow vegetables. At first, faced with low public interest in organic food and the difficulty of finding a market, he struggled to sell his produce. However, he found a way forward by establishing direct contacts with customers and selling from his farm. This gradually increased the demand for his products and allowed him to widen his production range.

As demand kept increasing, his next step was to grow tomatoes, bell peppers and aubergines in foil tunnels. This practice is very efficient as it allows a steady microclimate to be maintained under the foil and extends the growing

season to all year-round.

To maximise the efficiency and quality of his vegetables, he also applies intercropping and crop rotation and finds and reintroduces 'old' species of vegetables like Jerusalem artichokes and parsnips. The project also gave him the opportunity to develop his farm and expand the range of processed food it produces to include pickles (cucumber, cabbage) and purée.

Overall, the cultivation of vegetables takes place on 1.16 ha of land, in both foil tunnels and on the ground. The vegetables are sold at regular markets like the Staropolski Fair, which takes place every two weeks in a shopping centre in the city of Łódź.

Main results

The financial aid obtained considerably improved the farm's development possibilities. It helped accelerate the implementation of new technologies, which increased the competitiveness of the farm.

Following the success of this project, the beneficiary aims to continue developing and expanding his farm to other areas, such as animal husbandry.

Key lessons

The development of this farm is becoming a model for local farmers who did not believe in the value and opportunities of organic production. It shows that even a small farm, if converted to organic production, can provide a decent living for a family.



Room for producing pickles

Additional sources of information

n/a