

SLOVENIA

Biodiversity restoration, preservation & enhancement

Location

Gorenjska

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P4 – Ecosystems
management

Measure

M10 - Agri-environment-
climate
M11 – Organic Farming
M13 - Areas with Constraints
M14 – Animal welfare

Funding (EUR)

Total budget	50 311.11
EAFRD	8 581.00 (M10)
	16 976.17 (M11)
	12 732.00 (M13)
	1 041.46 (M14)
National/Regional	
	2 145.26 (M10)
	4 244.05 (M11)
	4 244.01 (M13)
	347.16 (M14)

Project duration

2015 – 2019

Project promoter

Janez Smrtnik, Kovk Farm

Contact

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An organic mountain farm uses indigenous breeds to produce high-quality meat, while preserving the local environment and genetic resources.

Summary

Kovk Farm is an organic farm located at an elevation of 750 to 1 100 metres. The farm owners obtained EAFRD funding to raise indigenous breeds of sheep, cattle, goats, chickens and pigs, which are best suited to this mountain landscape.

This supports the farm in its mission to maintain indigenous breeds, the environment and Slovenian cultural heritage.



Results

Kovk farm employs one person on a regular basis. The EAFRD funding has given it the potential to develop further and create more jobs.

The farm has been able to increase the sales price of its trimmed meat by 14% because it is produced organically.

The benefits of breeding endangered indigenous breeds include protecting genetic resources and breeding knowledge.

Janez Smrtnik farm has become part of the ARK Farm Network, in recognition of its contribution to preserving biodiversity in Slovenian husbandry.

Context

Nine of the 12 indigenous breeds of farm animals in Slovenia are threatened. The Kovk Farm is rearing five indigenous breeds (the Jezersko-Solčava sheep, Cika cattle, Krškopolje pig, Drežnica goat and Styrian hen). Production is on a small scale, which has resulted in a partial loss of income in comparison with farmers with intensive breeds.

In addition to its daily animal husbandry operations, the farm breeds Jezersko-Solčav rams at a test station run in collaboration with the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana.

It also sells fresh meat and is seeking organic certification to help with its marketing.

Apart from receiving support under the Agri-Environment-Climate (AEC) measure as a mountain organic farm, the beneficiary has applied for support under several other measures of the RDP 2014–2020, i.e.: Less Favoured Area, Animal welfare and Organic Farming.

The farmer prepared and submitted his application for RDP support with the help of a farm advisory service from Kranj.

Objectives

The aim of the farmer is to breed indigenous species and provide consumers with healthy food, while creating the conditions to generate revenue for the farm.

Activities

Activities under the AEC measure:

- before applying for support the farmer attended a six-hour training programme (lectures) on agri-environment-climate topics (2016);
- in the first year, the farmer prepared the Activity programme for the agricultural holding, listing all of the activities and rules the farm must comply with for a period of five years;
- each year the farmer attends a four-hour training programme (lectures and farm visits) on agri-environment-climate topics (so far 2017 and 2018);
- once in the five year period, the farm will be visited by an agricultural advisor, to check the implementation of the agreed activities and provide advice;

- the farmer keeps records on all the farm work, including the use of organic fertilisers and livestock management.
- the RDP support granted covers 49 Jezersko-Solčava sheep and 13 Cika cattle.

Activities carried out under the measure on organic farming:

- before applying for the grant, the farmer was required to attend a six-hour training programme on organic farming;
- the farmer has to obtain organic production and processing certification each year;
- in the first year, he prepared the Activity programme for the farm, listing all the activities and rules to be respected during the contracted five-year period;
- each year the farmer also takes part in a six-hour training programme (lectures and farm visits) on organic farming topics;
- Within the five-year period, the farm will be visited by an agricultural adviser to check the implementation of the activities and offer advice on farming under the conditions of the Organic Farming measure;
- 31 hectares are supported under the Organic Farming measure.

Main results

The farm employs one person on a regular basis. The EAFRD funding has given it the potential to develop further and create more jobs.

The farm has been able to increase the sales price of its trimmed meat by 14% because it is produced organically.

The benefits of breeding endangered indigenous breeds include protecting genetic resources and breeding knowledge.

The Jezersko-Solčava sheep is very well adapted to grazing on steep mountain pastures. These have a rich composition of grass, which has a positive impact on the quality of the meat. Thus sheep farming is a sustainable way to use and protect steep Alpine pastures and prevent overgrowth.

Janez Smrtnik farm has become part of the ARK Farm Network, in recognition of its contribution to preserving biodiversity in Slovenian husbandry.