

## SLOVAKIA

# Farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation

### Location

Lučenec

### Programming period

2014 – 2020

### Priority

P2 – Competitiveness

### Measure

M04 – Investments in  
physical assets

### Funding (EUR)

Total budget 1 998 942  
EAFRD 749 603  
National/Regional 249 868  
Private 999 471

### Project duration

2017 – 2020

### Project promoter

KLAS, s.r.o.

### Contact

[ondro@klasholding.sk](mailto:ondro@klasholding.sk)

### Website

n/a

An organic farm used investment support from the Slovakian Rural Development Programme to modernize its facilities in order to improve animal welfare and increase production.

## Summary

KLAS, s.r.o., a cattle and fodder production farm in south-central Slovakia, used support from the Rural Development Programme to reconstruct and expand its cattle stables and modernize its agricultural machinery. These investments have resulted in increased efficiency and quality of fodder production, higher levels of animal welfare, and improved soil fertility.



## Results

Over the 2017-2020 period there has been a significant increase in farm performance and output, including:

- Fodder production increased from 137 mt to around 2 220 mt p.a.
- Diesel consumption decrease from 60 lt/day to 40 lt/day.
- The calving increase by 20% and cattle mortality decrease by 60%.
- One new job created.

## Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ This project demonstrates that comprehensive RDP support for physical investments can lead to multiple positive outcomes for a farm's production model. In this case, improved animal welfare, combined with increased crop production and soil protection. This leads not only to improved economic performance and environmental protection, but also to a greater sense of motivation among employees.

## Context

Set on approximately 990 ha of land in the districts of Lučenec and Velký Krtíš in south-central Slovakia, the KLAS, s.r.o. farm was established in 2003 and expanded significantly in 2012 when the current owners took over. Both districts have high unemployment rates and are classified as areas facing natural or other specific constraints (ANC). KLAS, s.r.o. is an organic farm employing 64 people. In addition to producing organic fodder and breeding cattle (approx. 230 cows of which 20% are heifers), it grows a special crop of organic mustard on an area of about 112ha.

As part of its business expansion plan, the farm owners applied for RDP support to reconstruct the existing stable block in a way that would increase its capacity and improve animal welfare standards. In addition, investments were needed to mitigate the impacts of climate change which have resulted in a shorter time-frames for sowing and harvesting.

## Objectives

The aims of this project were to:

- Increase the capacity of the stables to house cattle under improved animal welfare conditions.
- Improve (speed-up) crop production, and increase soil protection from degradation, by purchase of modern farming machinery and equipment.

## Activities

The reconstruction of the stables involved replacing the roof; the electrical wiring and the water distribution pipes; concreting the floors; and installing new waterers and a new, separate, calving system.

The investment supported the purchase of four new tractors, each of a specific type (one a crawler tractor), two sprayers (one self-propelled), a manure spreader, a baler and bale wagons, cultivators and other agricultural machinery.

Beginning in 2017 with the purchase of the first items of agricultural equipment, the project was implemented over

the course of three years, with the farm acquiring a total of 21 agricultural machines.

## Main results

There has been a significant increase in farm performance and output.

In 2017 fodder production (hay and haylage) averaged 137 mt p.a. By 2021, following the purchase of all the necessary equipment, production had increased to approximately 2 220 mt.

The use of more modernized machinery has contributed to a reduction in diesel consumption from 60 lt/day to 40 lt/day.

The renovation of the stables has improved animal welfare and the introduction of modern machinery has improved the quality of forage production, including specifically:

- Calving rate increase of more than 20%.
- Cattle mortality decrease by 60% and calf mortality by 48%.

In January 2021, a new job was created for an agricultural machinery and equipment operator.



## Key lessons

This project was a comprehensive investment strategy. Efficiency and output have increased, and there has been a very positive impact on the wellbeing and motivation of employees. Their work has been made easier by the modernisation of machinery and equipment and they understand that the farm is serious about investing for everyone's long term interest.

## Additional sources of information

n/a