

SWEDEN

Climate change mitigation

Location

Nationwide

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P4 - Ecosystems
Management

Measure

M02 – Advisory services

Funding (EUR)*

Total budget 244 623
EAFRD 119 376
National/Regional 125 247

Project duration

2015-2020

Project promoter

Jordbruksverket, Swedish
Board of Agriculture

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Targeted advice on climate mitigation actions for individual farms provides farmers with consultant support to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Summary

Klimatkollen is an advisory service module within the very successful Greppa Näringen project. Consultants receive climate mitigation training to understand the different ways farmers can reduce the emissions linked to their agricultural production and the various calculation methods involved. They then tour individual farms to discuss possible actions that would contribute to reducing those emissions.



The individual visits allow the consultants to assess and recommend tailor-made solutions for every farm that requested the Klimatkollen visits. Multiple visits and follow-ups during a three-year period enable capacity building and testing different methods that ultimately contribute to climate mitigation. The Klimatkollen visits focus primarily on resources efficiency which can result in positive changes that benefit both the climate and the farmer's bottom line. The project provides a technical assessment of a farms' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, individualised advice from a consultant who has developed an understanding of the farming operation and on-going support for a period of time to trial and error which mitigation actions will be the most effective.

Results

Consultants are trained in how to calculate emissions and which are the different actions that can be implemented by farmers. Hundreds of individual consultant visits have been carried out, equipping farmers with specific actions tailored to their production system and reducing GHG emissions. Follow-up visits help provide on-going support in case actions need to be adapted or were not implemented effectively.

Lessons and recommendations:

- ❑ This project addresses the gap, which too often exists, between telling farmers to reduce emissions and actually equipping them with the knowledge and skills as to which actions would help them accomplish this objective.
- ❑ Tailoring recommendations specifically to each individual farm increases the likelihood that actions will be taken up, especially if increased efficiency leads to a win-win situation of climate mitigation and economic benefits.

* Klimatkollen is financed together with other consultant visits within Greppa Näringen. The number is therefore an economic estimation of how much money is spent on Klimatkollen specifically within the funding of Greppa Näringen. Cost for consultant visits, development of data-tools to calculate greenhouse gas emissions and education of Klimatkollen consultants is included in the estimation.

Context

The Greppa Näringen project started in 2001 to reduce nutrient losses to air and water from livestock and crop production. The method used to achieve the project's goals was to offer private farm-based consulting services. Greppa Näringen has been very successful, with around 50 000 consultants' visits carried out since it began.

In 2007, a group within the project started working on climate change as an important focus area for the Greppa Näringen concept. A new consultancy service module, Klimatkollen, was designed and tools were created for calculating the farm-based GHG emissions. The tools were based on the Life-Cycle Analysis (LCA) strategy. A programme was developed to educate the advisors on the concepts and tools. Consultants must undergo a two-day training course and pass a test in climate calculations to become advisors for Klimatkollen. This is to ensure that all consultants have the proper knowledge for advising farmers on suitable climate mitigation actions.

The consultancy service module Klimatkollen was initiated in 2010 and has since been requested all over Sweden.

Objectives

Klimatkollen is a project provided to the Swedish agriculture sector to:

- Reduce the GHG emissions from farming.
- Dispense professional assessment, advice and support to achieve climate mitigation actions on-farm through consultants' visits.
- Equip consultants with the knowledge and skills to provide in-depth calculations about GHG emissions and alternative mitigation options.
- Increase the uptake and successful implementation of mitigation actions by farmers.

Activities

Throughout the project, Klimatkollen consultants carried out visits to different farms all over Sweden. Klimatkollen advising begins with a start-up visit. This is followed up by between four and six visits during a three-year period. A final visit ends the consultant's mission.

Suggested actions are tailor-made to fit each farm's specific situation. They depend on whether the farm focuses mainly on livestock or crop cultivation. During the visits, the goals of the consultants are to:

- Increase the farmer's knowledge of the climate issues connected to the farm's primary production.
- Increase the farmer's knowledge about where in the

production chain GHG are emitted.

- Calculate the farm's GHG emissions.
- Improve the efficiency of the farmer's use of resources.
- Suggest actions to reduce GHG emissions in both the short and long term.

This approach where farms are visited multiple times builds rapport with the consultant, allows for a gradual change in the farmer's awareness and understanding and increases the chance of finding solutions that work for every individual farm.

Main Results

The project has resulted in myriad changes on those Swedish farms that have reduced their GHG emissions. The mitigation results are different for every individual farm but common approaches include:

- Ensuring good animal health and fertility.
- Animal Diet – Using feed in an efficient way and reducing the use of soy and palm that contribute to GHG emissions in other countries.
- Using nitrogen fertiliser efficiently to reduce the formation of nitrous oxide.
- Instituting well-functioning crop rotations.

Over the course of the last decade, Klimatkollen consultants have visited many farms. From 2014 until 2020, 850 private consultant visits have been made to farms across Sweden, specifically focusing on tailor-made climate mitigation strategies.

Key lessons

Greppa Näringen is joint venture between multiple stakeholders, including the Swedish Board of Agriculture (Jordbruksverket), the different Swedish county governments (Sveriges länsstyrelser), and a number of companies in the agricultural sector. With more than 10,000 members, the Greppa Näringen project connects farmers, consultants, businesses and state representatives around the common goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and environmental problems connected to agriculture.

One objective under the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) is to increase the competitiveness of European farmers. Greppa Näringen and Klimatkollen contribute to this objective by the myriad actions that have been promoted and taken up on Swedish farms on efficient energy use. These actions provide both environmental and financial benefits, thereby increasing the competitiveness of European farmers.