

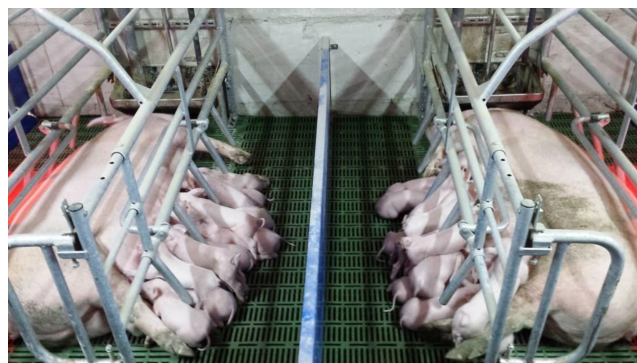
Romania

Risk prevention & management

EU food safety improved by CAP funding for young Romanian pig farmer.

Summary

A young farmer used CAP support to modernise his pig farm's ability to tackle threats from African swine fever and other zoonotic diseases by purchasing new sanitary management equipment and an electricity generator.



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Location

Vinerea

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P3 - Food chain & risk management

Measure

M05 –
Damage/restoration/prevention actions

Funding

Total budget 228 616 (EUR)
EAFRD 128 255 (EUR)
National/Regional 25 436 (EUR)
Private 74 925 (EUR)

Project duration

2020 – 2020

Project promoter

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Project Results

This project helped to protect the farm business and security of food supplies by minimising risk of animal health problems.

The farm has achieved Level III biosecurity standards and now safely manages some 4,000 animals.

The new equipment has improved biosecurity, reduced costs, and raised standards, while the purchase of an electricity generator helps to ensure the farm's energy autonomy.

Lessons & Recommendations

- Multifunctional CAP funding can be used to safeguard food security by improving food safety and support farm incomes for rural economies.
- Agriculture's attractiveness as a career option for future farmers and food producers can be improved by the opportunities provided through CAP funding.

Context

Pork was one of the most consumed foods in Romania but imports dominated domestic markets and opportunities existed for pig fattening. In this context, Alexandru Arpad Szekely, a young engineer specialised in biotechnology, decided to take over and develop his family's pig farm, which is in a mountainous rural area.

Alexandru developing his farm business using EU funding from SAPARD. This was reinforced by biosecurity support from the CAP to address African Swine Fever challenges.

Animal health has a direct impact on public health, both because of food safety issues and because some animal diseases are transmissible to humans. Epidemics of animal disease can generate large economic losses while business operators are banned from domestic and foreign markets during disease controls.

Objectives

The aims of this CAP-funded project involved:

- Consolidating biosecurity actions to prevent and manage the risk of zoonotic diseases; and
- Improving energy autonomy on the beneficiary's farm.

Activities

CAP investment funds helped Alexandru to purchase equipment for enhancing biosecurity on the farm and prevent risks from African Swine Fever spread.

Fixed and mobile equipment included two pressure washing robots, a mobile humidifier, two thermonebulizers, four water disinfectants with UV, two whitewashing pumps, a disinfection gate with remote control, a gate for disinfection and washing wheels, 11 UV lamps, and protective equipment.

In addition, the young farmer bought a mobile power generator to ensure that production could be performed without interruption.

Main Results

The farm has achieved Level III biosecurity standards and now safely manages some 4,000 animals.

This project has had a positive impact by reducing mortality on the beneficiary's farm and by providing disease-free fattening pigs. These elements contribute to the sanitary-veterinary safety in the region where the farm operates.

This project helped to secure the future of the farm by minimising risk of animal health problems.

The new equipment has improved biosecurity, reduced costs, and raised standards, while the purchase of an electricity generator helps to ensure the farm's energy autonomy.

Key lessons

CAP funds can be used in multipurpose ways to help improve food safety and security in addition to protecting rural incomes.

Biosecurity measures can modernise farms and help improve the attractiveness of agriculture as a viable long-term career for young people.

"My personal advice for those who want to access European funds is to structure their investment idea well, not to exaggerate with large investments from the beginning and once they have prepared the project with the help of a consultant, to persevere in obtaining a co-financing. After implementation and completion, maximum involvement is required in your own activity to ensure that the investment will be a success."

Alexandru Arpad SZEKELY

Additional information

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Funded by
the European Union