

BELGIUM

LEADER
Implementing Local
Development
Strategies

Location

Municipalities of Anthisnes, Clavier, Marchin, Modave, Nandrin, Ouffet and Tintot

Programming period

2007-2013

Axis / Priority

Axis 4 – LEADER

Funding

Total budget 200 000 EUR
EAFRD 90 000 EUR
National/region. 90 000 EUR
Local 20 000 EUR

Project duration

2007– 2013

Project promoter

LAG Pays des Condruses

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A LEADER project funded a series of studies and information activities to explore the potentials of producing biogas using the manure produced by local cattle breeding farms.

Summary

The area covered by the Local Action Group Pays des Condruses has a developed cattle breeding sector and the existence of these farms offers great potentials for biogas production. It was estimated that if all the animal waste of the area was used for the production of biogas it would cover the annual consumption of electricity of the 7 towns in the LAG area.



Since 2009 the LAG supported a series of studies that were conducted on various issues related to biogas production. These included mapping the distribution of farms in the area and their capacity to produce biogas, identifying the areas of higher consumption of energy for heating, examining the possibility and options for setting up cooperatives that would handle the digesters and methods for compensating their members (e.g. via dividends), how to implement dry digestion, etc. The studies were accompanied by seminars and internet publications for informing farmers and citizens, study trips and production of guidelines on how to apply the dry digestion technique.

Results

Apart from the studies and information produced, out of the 19 points of high energy consumption identified in the area, on 4 of them projects were launched to set up biogas plants. At the Center of Agricultural Technology (CTA) of Strée, installing a unit for dry digestion with a capacity of 100-200 kW was feasible. The project leader is Watt's Up, Liege. The application for permission is under process and the objective in this case is the production of fertilizers rather than energy. Another study for a 300 kilowatts unit in Fraiture is also well advanced technically but currently suspended for various reasons. At Ochain, a nursing home association should benefit from a 600 kW unit and the application for the permit has already been submitted. Finally, in Marchin, a 200 kW unit was considered for municipal buildings. However it was suspended because of the lack of profitability in the conditions of 2013.

Lessons & Recommendations

The role of the LAG in such projects is crucial as they act as mediator, catalyst, and facilitate contacts between businesses, farmers, architects and engineers and the administration.

The main difficulty is the lack of clear requirements and a motivating framework which limits the interest on the part of farmers who do not feel the support of government. There are many obstacles in the administrative procedure including for example legislative aspects (application of industrial standards), lack of standards for dry digestion etc. that make farmers to feel insecure. Moreover, farmers also often have financial difficulties and are not ready to take risks in investments.

Additional sources of information

http://www.reseau-pwdr.be/sites/default/files/498012_201410_bp_biomethanisation_condruses.pdf