

HUNGARY

Promoting knowledge and improving human potential

Location

Fajsz

Programming period

2007 - 2013

Axis

Axis 1 – Competitiveness

Measure

M112 - Setting up of young farmers

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 80 000

EAFRD 30 000

National/Regional 10 000

Private 40 000

Project duration

2009 – 2015

Project promoter

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RDP support for young farmers enabled a young entrepreneur to turn his small farm into a viable organic farm which contributes to the protection of the environment while creating new employment opportunities for the local community.

Summary

Balázs Berta, a graduate agricultural engineer wanted to expand his small farm of just 1.5 hectare. His plan was to use the advantages of a small farm and organic production, so he began to cultivate organic spices and vegetables.



In 2009, he received financial support from the RDP measure on support of young farmers. The grant helped him to start developing and expanding his farm and buy an additional 8.5 ha of land. The young farmer bought a line spacing cultivator, a 'Turbocipa' irrigation system and a suspended spice crop harvester. He also purchased a two-row disc and a garden rotovator.

Results

RDP support enabled the young farmer to establish self-sustained organic farm of 10 ha.

The beneficiary expanded the farm's activities to animal husbandry. Lower quality vegetables are used as animal feed and the manure from the animals becomes organic fertiliser for the crops.

Since the beneficiary started with 8 seasonal workers, in the last 2 years he was able to employ 2 permanent employees as well.

The investment set an example for other farmers in the area as he demonstrated that a small farm can produce higher value organic products other than cereals.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Organic farming is vulnerable to the weather conditions and the risk of low yields is also higher compared to conventional agriculture. However, support from a qualified consultant can reduce those risks.
- ❑ Lack of rain and nutrients can also be tackled through irrigation and crop rotation. The supply of nutrients can also be secured through the use of organic manure.

Context

Balázs Berta is a graduate agricultural engineer whose main goal was to create a sustainable ecological farm in the heart of Hungary, in Fajsz. Unlike other farmers in Fajsz, Balázs had too little land to cultivate. Originally, he owned and used a 1.5 hectare area. His plan was to use the advantages of a small farm and organic agriculture, so he began to cultivate organic spices and vegetables.

In 2009, he received financial support from the RDP measure on support of young farmers. The grant helped him start developing and expanding his farm. Currently he farms 10 hectares, and apart from the main arable crops, he also cultivates herbs including basil, paprika, dill, lovage, marjoram and horticultural plants including garlic, tomatoes and green wheat grass. The products are primarily sold to a fresh fruit cooperative in Kecel and through his family's business, Bio-Drog-Berta Ltd.

Objectives

The objectives of this investment were to:

- create, develop and expand an organic farm and ensure its financial viability;
- create jobs for the local community;
- preserve a healthy natural environment.

Activities

The support granted enabled him to expand his farm by an additional 8.5 hectares of extra land which he rented the last five years. RDP support was destined to buy the machinery used for his specialised cultivation.

Since organic production does not allow the use of chemicals, the young farmer bought a line spacing cultivator, a 'Turbocipa' irrigation system and a suspended spice crop harvester. He also purchased a row spacing and planter/cultivator, a two-row disc and a garden rotovator.

Main results

By the end of the support, a 10 hectare self-sustained organic farm had been established. The production is based on the model 'from farm to fork' including the growing of the plants, the processing and sales.

The beneficiary aimed to employ his workers not only on seasonal basis but during the whole year and therefore he expanded his activities to animal husbandry. Now lower quality vegetables can be used as animal feed and the manure from his animals becomes organic fertiliser for his crops.

Balázs started with 8 seasonal workers and in the last 2 years he has been able to employ 2 permanent employees as well.

In the meantime, Balázs inspired other farmers in his area as he demonstrated that a small farm can produce high value products other than cereals.

Key lessons

Organic farming is very much vulnerable to the weather conditions and the risk of low yields is also higher compared to conventional agriculture. However, support from a qualified consultant can reduce those risks.

Lack of rainfalls and nutrients can also be tackled through irrigation and crop rotation. The supply of nutrients can also be secured through the use of organic manure.



Additional sources of information

n/a