

LITHUANIA

Farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation

Location

Panevėžys

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P2 – Competitiveness

Measure

M4 – Investments in physical
assets

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 387 400

EAFRD 226 215

National/Regional 39 920

Private 121 265

Project duration

2015 – 2018

Project promoter

Ričardas Jasiūnas

Contact

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Website

n/a

RDP support helped a farmer to acquire the necessary equipment and infrastructure to continue expanding his organic beef cattle herd.

Summary

The farm of Ričardas Jasiūnas is a specialized organic beef cattle farm. The farm has over 90 hectares of land and produces its own feed for the animals. Ričardas sought RDP support for the acquisition of the necessary equipment and infrastructure that would facilitate the process of gradually increasing his herd.



Support from the 2014-2020 RDP was used for the construction of buildings (including a farmhouse for the herd) and to purchase equipment including outdoor feeders and drinkers, a manure spreader, a semi-trailer (for transporting rolls), the roller press, and the construction of a borehole.

Results

The number of animals increased from 34 to 99, including 41 beef cows, 32 heifers and 32 bulls.

The farm's standard production value increased from EUR 19 208.43 to EUR 35 602.94.

The farmer increased the amount of farmland that was used for feed production. Since 2008, these areas have more than doubled to 97.1 ha.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ In order to overcome unexpected problems during the project implementation phase, and ensure that the terms of the Agency support provision were not violated, it was vital to maintain good communication with the consultants who prepared the project and the National Paying Agency.

Context

Ričardas Jasiūnas is the owner of a specialized organic beef cattle farm that incorporates over 90 ha of land, including cereal crops and meadows, as well as pastures used to produce feed for the animals. Before starting the project in 2014, 34 livestock units of cattle were kept at the holding. The farmer was facing problems regarding buildings and machinery, equipment and water supply. The old barn had to be modernized and expanded in order to allow enough space for increasing the herd.

The farm had the necessary equipment for the preparation of grain and grass feed, animal care and for transporting the animals, however, some of the machinery and equipment were old and required a lot of fuel and spare part. This incurred high repair and maintenance costs. The farm was self-sufficient for feed, but this required good technical infrastructure. As more than 90 ha of agricultural land were in use and almost all of the work was carried out by the farmer himself, modernization of the equipment and facilities was inevitable. The farm also encountered a water shortage problem and for this reason a borehole and a water supply system were needed to ensure that animal welfare and sanitary requirements could be upheld.

Objectives

The objective of this project was to increase the viability and competitiveness of the farm, while ensuring the efficient use of resources. Modernization of the farm's equipment and facilities would enable the farmer to increase his income while promoting environmental protection and sustainable development.

Activities

In 2008, Ričardas submitted a project under the 2007-2013 measure "Setting up of young farmers" to support him in the process of setting up a beef cattle farm. Through this project he acquired a tractor and a press and, by the end of 2009 the herd included 15 beef cattle, of which 2 beef cows, 8 heifers and 5 young bulls.

In 2011, a new project under the measure "Modernization of Agricultural Holdings" of the 2007-2013 RDP helped Ričardas to get additional machinery (such as a feeder, an electric rake generator, an animal locking frame, a calf puller, a mower and a front loader with a bucket) and build a fence. By the end of that project, in 2011, the herd

had increased to 20, including 8 beef cows, 8 bulls and 4 heifers.



By the end of 2014 - and before submitting, in 2015, a project proposal under the Measure "Investments in physical assets" of the 2014-2020 RDP - the herd consisted of 34 beef cattle. It was through this most recent project that the farmer aimed to increase the herd to 118 animals within 7 years. The awarded support helped the farmer to build a new barn; and get equipment such as outdoor feeders and drinkers, as well as outdoor partitions. In addition, new machinery was purchased: a manure spreader, a semi-trailer for transporting rolls, a roller press and a grass cutter-composer. The project also covered the costs of creating the borehole.

Main results

The number of animals increased from 34 to 99 (including 41 beef cows, 32 heifers, 32 bulls), and the farm's standard production value increased from EUR 19 208.43 to EUR 35 602.94.

Through various development phases, the farmer has successfully increased both the beef cattle herd and the farmland which is used for feed production. Since 2008, these areas have more than doubled to 97.1 ha.

Key lessons

Some unexpected problems arose during the project implementation phase. One example is that the construction supplier who had won the public tender was suddenly declared insolvent. In order to go ahead with the remaining construction work, it was necessary to arrange a new tender and to terminate the existing contractor agreement. This required additional work, energy and time. However, regular communication with the consultants who prepared the project and the National Paying Agency, in order to discuss the issues and seek advice, ensured that the terms of the Agency support provision were not violated and that the project could go ahead.