

LATVIA

Farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation

Location

Uidas

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P2 – Competitiveness

Measure

M04 – Investments in physical assets

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 61 719.49

RDP support 24 688.60

Private 37 030.89

Project duration

2016 – 2016

Project promoter

ZS "KRIKŠI"

Contact

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Website

n/a

An organic cattle breeding family farm used RDP investment support to acquire machinery for the efficient harvest of high-quality animal feed.

Summary

The Kriksi farm is located inside the 'Abava Nature Park' and its primary activity is raising and breeding beef cattle. The farm has been awarded the status of pure breeder of Charolais cattle and is also certified organic.



The farm needed to acquire investment support to improve its efficiency in harvesting and managing its fields in the shortest possible time and to the highest quality. Support from the Latvian Rural Development Programme (RDP) was used to purchase the needed machinery, including a hay tedder, a landscape rake, a front mower, a grass chopper, a trailer and fence panels.

Results

The project will allow for reduced fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions.

Reducing the number of trips due to increased transportation capacity and high work quality will have a positive effect on the growth of the farm's vegetation and the quality of the feed base.

Context

The Kriksi farm is an example of how a family has preserved its values and traditions, along with the desire to develop the future of the Latvian countryside, by managing its own farm for three generations. In reality, the family has been managing the land for five generations. After the 2nd World War, however, in 1949 the whole family was deported to Siberia as they were considered to be “too well situated” farmers and the land was taken away on behalf of the Soviet Union. However, they managed to get their land back in 1992 and to start their own farm in November 2004, when their first project proposal for EU funds was approved.

The farm is located within the Abava Nature Park. The sole owner and manager of the holding is Santra Celmina, who graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture of the Jalgava LLU in 1996. The primary activity of the farm is cultivating and breeding Sharolè (Charolais) beef cattle. The livestock operation was started when animals were purchased in 2004 through the project “Purchase of high-quality animals for the development of pure-bred meat livestock”. The farm initially managed 35 hectares of agricultural land. Since 2006, the holding has been certified as organic. In 2008, the farm received the status of pure breeder of Charolais cattle. Other previous EU-funded projects included the “Purchase of livestock equipment and machinery”, “Reconstruction of a bovine animal holding”, and “Purchase of a bovine trailer”.

At present, there are 110 cattle on the holding; there are three breeding bulls, 41 suckler cows, other rearing stock and young bulls. By 2015, the farm had grown to manage 264.41 hectares of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA). In the long run, the farm plans to increase the number of suckler cows to 70, paying more attention to the genetic quality of its breeding material. The farm is also planning to expand its home production, offering local buyers the possibility to purchase quality organic beef cooked under vacuum. In the short term, by implementing this project, the farm will harvest and manage its fields in the shortest possible time and to the highest quality.

Objectives

The objective of this investment project was to improve the competitiveness of the family farm while protecting the environment.

Activities

The specific machinery and equipment acquired included the following:

A hay tedder – after harvesting the hay, the green cuttings were left in rows throughout the fields, which complicated the drying process. With the aid of a tedder, the cuttings can be dissipated and dried in the shortest possible time. In this way, higher quality hay is obtained.

Landscape rake – this rakes the scattered, dried-up hay into a single row to allow it to be baled.

Front mower – when this mower is fitted to a tractor, it cuts the grass very effectively, thereby reducing fuel consumption due to fewer trips around the field and reducing the amount of time required.

Grass chopper – this piece of equipment may be used for pasture management and maintenance as well as for maintaining open drainage systems due to its dual cutting and crushing function.

Trailer – the trailer is used for transporting the harvested hay bales. The farm’s rented land is up to 20 km away from the farm, so the trailer allows ten bales to be transported back to the farm per trip.

Fence panels – as the number of cattle increases, the grids are used to separate and secure the animals.

Main results

The project will allow for reduced fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions.

Reducing the number of trips hauling bales due to increased transportation capacity as well as around the field due to higher work quality will have a beneficial effect on the farm’s pasture growth and the quality of the feed base.

Additional sources of information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IO8IPP9RN8&feature=youtu.be>