

## SLOVENIA

### Farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation

#### Location

Zgornje Gorje

#### Programming period

2014 – 2020

#### Priority

P2 – Competitiveness

#### Measure

M04 – Investments in physical assets

#### Funding

Total budget 18 356.70 (EUR)

EAFRD 5 207.14 (EUR)

National/Regional 1 735.72 (EUR)

Private 11 413.84 (EUR)

#### Project duration

2019 to 2020

#### Project promoter

Mateja Reš

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#### Website

<https://vrtokusov.si>

CAP funds improve the climate resilience of a family farm's organic fruit and nut products in the Slovenian alps.

### Summary

Mateja Reš used CAP funds to help protect and diversify her family farm's range of organic products. Changing climate conditions in the local alpine area posed risks to her soft-fruit business and investment funding was awarded for a resource-efficient drip irrigation system as well as a new walnut orchard protected by hail nets.



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### Project Results

- This investment helped to ensure the stable production of good quality produce and reduce the risk from negative effects of extreme weather events.
- The farm continues to create new products and sources of income. Their product offer is growing every year.

### Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ CAP support can play a key role in food security by enabling farmers to maintain and improve competitiveness by diversifying revenues and adapt to climate change risks.
- ❑ Farm advisors can provide a wide range of added value know-how about technical and financial matters.

## Context

Mateja Reš manages her family farm in the Slovenian alps and has produced a range of products including organic food. Fruits production (raspberries, chokeberry, blackberry, redcurrants, blackcurrant, and gooseberry) is an important part of the family farm's revenue and added value products are also processed such as herbal teas, vinegars, liqueurs, fruit leathers, chili sauces, herbal salts, jams, hydrolats.

Climate conditions had posed a risk to the farm's sustainability due to more extreme episodes of heavy rain, hail, and drought. In order to adapt to these changing climate conditions, Mateja designed a business modernisation plan which included improving crop protection and crop controls. This was complemented by crop diversification to further strengthen the farm's resilience against economic and environmental risks.

## Objectives

The aim of this investment project was to improve the farm's long-term competitiveness by increasing the resilience of its production process against unpredictable effects of climate change. Outcomes would also support policies promoting water management, food security and nutrition.

## Activities

Activity funded with CAP support involved:

- Installing a modern, resource-efficient, drip irrigation system that covers 0.22 ha planted with berries and 0.08 ha of herbs. The entire plot was also secured with a 500 m fence. And
- Planting a new 20-tree walnut orchard of 0.2 ha, with a hail protection net for each tree

## Main results

- The irrigation system and hail protection nets have secured the stable production of good quality produce and reduced the risk of crop damage by extreme weather events.
- The investment has enabled the farm to continue to create new products and sources of income. The farm's product range is expanding every year.
- The farm is visited by local schools, associations, and groups and has become a hosting venue for smaller-sized events, workshops, and demonstrations.

## Key lessons

CAP can support the resilience of food systems by helping to protect production against risks from changing and extreme climate conditions.

A comprehensive preparatory analysis for business development projects will help to identify all considerations and reduce potential problems caused by unforeseen factors.

Potential beneficiaries for CAP investment support should seek support from experts when preparing their funding application and they should be aware that there might be necessary expenditures that are not eligible for co-financing.

*"I believe one should do what he/she loves. Respect for nature and sustainable way of living are important to me. This project helped me in making another step in ensuring sustainability of the farm and offering healthy and quality food to my customers. "*

*Mateja Reš, beneficiary*

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## Additional sources of information

[www.facebook.com/Vrtokusov](https://www.facebook.com/Vrtokusov)