

Daniele Ugolotti – a young farmer investing in precision agriculture

A young farmer invested in precision agriculture machinery and equipment to increase production efficacy on his small farm.

EAFRD-funded projects

Location: Castelnovo di Sotto, Hungary

Programming period: 2014-2020

Priority: P2 - Competitiveness

Focus Area: Entry of skilled/younger farmers

Measures: M04 – Investments in physical assets

Funding: Total budget 179 700.00 (EUR)

EAFRD 45 211.00 (EUR)

National/Regional 56 639.00 (EUR)

Private 74 850.00 (EUR)

Timeframe: 2022 to 2024

Project promoter: Daniele Ugolotti

Email: Daniele8295r@gmail.com

Website: n/a

Summary

Daniele Ugolotti, a 23-year-old farmer in the province of Reggio Emilia, used CAP investment support to start his arable farming business based on precision agriculture. He purchased agricultural machinery and equipment to reduce the farm's operating costs and improve the soil quality.

Project results

- > up to 15% savings in seeds;
- > up to 15% savings in fuel;
- > reduced use of weed control chemicals;
- > improved overall soil quality.

Lessons & Recommendations

Precision agriculture provides operational efficiencies and competitive advantages.

Context

Born into a farming family, 23 year-old Daniele Ugolotti is a young farmer from the province of Reggio Emilia, in the northern part of the Emilia Romagna region. Before entering the sector, he received technical training and worked for one year as a tractor driver for an agricultural contractor. He owns three hectares of land and rents another 15 ha of arable land. He considered that precision farming would be the best way to manage his farm in a profitable way.

Objectives

Through this investment in precision agriculture machinery, the young farmer sought to improve the production processes on his farm.

Activities

CAP support was used to help purchase:

- > a tractor (100 HP) equipped with a GPS system;
- > an electronic sowing machine, which is suitable for minimum tillage cultivation;
- > a weed control machine (15 m frontline) with anti-drift shields that prevent droplets of the chemicals from being carried by wind away from the target area.



Main results

The new equipment enable the young farmer to achieve:

- up to 15% savings in the quantity of seeds used for the different crops that he cultivates;
- up to 15% savings in the quantity of fuel needed per hectare;
- reduced use of weed control chemicals;
- improved soil quality due to minimum tillage and larger tyres on the new tractor.

Daniele will keep selling his produce via local cooperatives and processors in the region.



Key lessons

Limited access to land is the main constraint faced by Daniele. The small amount of land that he currently runs, does not allow him to achieve the economies of scale that that would maximise the benefits of precision agriculture.

Additional information:

n/a



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