

2nd National Networks Meeting – Leszno, Poland

Factsheet: Field visit 2

Programme of the visit

- › 8:30 Departure
- › 9:45 - 10:45 Apiary 'Dr Pszczółka' (Dr Bee) in Rumunki (member of the Operational Group 'Skarby z pola' [Treasures from the field]) – Mr Piotr Michalik will make a presentation on short food supply chains, taking the Operational Group as an example. During the visit there will be a tasting of products produced by the Group.
- › 11:00 - 12:00 Farm 'Pod Jastrzębcem' (Under Hawkweed) in Przejma – Mr Andrzej Ciołkowski will give the participants the tour of the farm and jam processing process. During the visit there will be a demonstration of how to cook 'Olender' jam in an earthen kitchen.
- › 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch on the farm in Przejma.
- › 13:15 - 14:15 Farm 'Pazikoland' in Stare Budy (Operational Group 'Pazikoland') – Mr Kamil Pazik will give the participants the tour of the farm and provide training on organic production in practice taking the example of the Operational Group 'Pazikoland'.

Operational Group 'Skarby z pola'

Apiary 'Dr Pszczółka' – member of the Operational Group

One of the members of the Operational Group 'Skarby z Pola' is the family apiary 'Dr Pszczółka' in the village of Rumunki, whose aim is to take care of biodiversity and protect natural pollinators, including the genetic resources of the native bees of the Kampinowska line.

Description

The Operational Group 'Skarby z Pola' was set up in 2021 under measure M16. 'Cooperation' to create short food supply chains, as laid down in the RDP 2014-2020. The consortium consists of the family apiary 'Dr Pszczółka' and four other farms: 'Jesienna Spiżarnia' [Autumn Pantry], 'Borowskie Miody Krzysztof Zalewski' [Borowski Honey], Agnieszka Grondziel's farm and Piotr Trzuskowski's farm.

Objective

The objective of the Group is to increase sales of unprocessed and processed products from individual farmers' holdings by using online tools, setting up an online shop and thereby increasing the marketing capacity of the Group's members.



Activities

The Group sells products produced on its own farms through short food supply chains, i.e. honeys, juices, jams, compotes, preserves, vegetable preparations, cucumbers, pickled salads and chicken carcasses.

The members of the Group share their knowledge with other farmers during training courses on beekeeping and at healthy food fairs. The owner of the 'Dr Pszczółka' apiary, Dr Piotr Michalik, together with the leader of the Operational Group, Mr Krzysztof Zalewski, run beekeeping classes for adults, which end with a state exam.

Financing details

Thanks to the funding received amounted to EUR 76 470 (Measure M16 'Cooperation', RDP 2014-2020), the Operational Group purchased an outbuilding for a beekeeping workshop, a honey extractor, beehives, beekeeping equipment, a hydro-press for extracting juice, a vegetable shredding kit, small catering equipment and it set up an online shop at <https://skarbyzpola.pl/>.

About 'Dr Pszczółka' Apiary

'Dr Pszczółka', a member of the Operational Group 'Skarby z Pola', is a family apiary in the village of Rumunki with a total of 80 beehives in 3 locations. The apiary is located in the close vicinity of the Kampinoska Vistula Valley near a Natura 2000 site. There are many valuable and rare plant groups here, such as non-forest ones (sand grasslands, herbs, Molinia and Cnidion dubii meadows) as well as scrubs and forests (riverside willow and poplar riparian forests, oak-elm-ash forests and alder-ash forests). The apiary offers mainly the following types of honey: multi-flower, multi-flower forest and rapeseed. Acacia honey is also obtained from trees growing in the vicinity of the apiary.

The apiary participates in the programme for the conservation of genetic resources of the native bee line Kampinoska and cooperates with the National Research Institute of Animal Production in Balice. The aim is to obtain biologically active honey, to promote native bee breeds and to take care of biodiversity and the protection of natural pollinators. It cooperates with the Breeding Apiary of the National Council of Agricultural Chambers in Parzniew.

More information:

- › Operational Group 'Skarby z pola', Poland, Mazowieckie voivodship, Płock powiat, Rumunki.
- › www.skarbyzpola.pl

How the Polish Rural Network supports Operational Groups

The Polish Rural Network – through its constituent specialist Polish Innovation Network (SIR) – has been working closely with the Managing Authority and Paying Agency



since 2017 to implement the Cooperation measure in Poland. The Network has innovation brokers throughout the country who have been instrumental in bringing together potential Operational Group members, in the preparation of funding applications, as well as in networking current and former Groups to publicise their achievements. The Polish Innovation Network's group of innovation brokers played a significant part in generating over 400 Operational Groups in Poland that have received funding, as well as many others that were unsuccessful.

Farm 'Pod Jastrzębcem' in Przejma

The 'Pod Jastrzębcem' farm has old apple and plum trees and a production facility for 'Powidła olenderskie' (Olender jam). The aim of the farm is to promote 'Dutch' traditions in the local community, among others, by organising the Olenderfest Festival. The sugar beet jam made on the farm has been included in the list of traditional products of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Description

The 'Pod Jastrzębcem' farm in Przejma is a biologically sustainable farm of an area of 8.5 ha growing old apple and plum trees, pumpkin and alfalfa. The farm uses environmentally friendly technologies, it has a stove fired with biomass, including pellets, and does not apply synthetic fertilisers or chemical plant protection products. Religious refugees came to Poland in the 16th century from the Low Countries and Friesland. They settled on the Vistula lands and successfully farmed them: draining the Vistula floodplains, building reservoirs, cultivating the land, fruit growing and raising cows. After World War II, they dispersed, but there remained some elements of their cultural landscape and the memory of their former Polish neighbours or descendants themselves.

The farm owner, Mr Andrzej Ciołkowski, whose family has lived in Przejma for generations, together with his son Tomasz, reached for the cultural heritage of the 'Dutch' and became interested in producing sugar beet jam, following a traditional manufacturing process and taking care of quality.

Objective

The main objective of the farm is to offer high-quality products while preserving traditional production methods, and at the same time not only reducing the environmental impact but also restoring the agricultural landscape and increasing the symbiosis between the farmer and nature.

Activities

In 2014, in the former cowshed, the owners set up the 'Powidlany zakątek' (jam corner) chamber of tradition, and a year later their jam made from sugar beet juice was included in the list of traditional products of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural



Development. In 2018, they were awarded 'a pearl' in the 18th edition of the nationwide competition 'Our Culinary Heritage – Tastes of Regions'. In addition, in 2022, the second product manufactured on the farm, sugar beet syrup from Iłów, was awarded the Laurel of the Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodship for the best Mazovian tastes. Since 2016 the owners have been organising the Olenderfest Festival every September. It is a multi-generational educational and integrative event bringing together the local community: craftsmen, local producers, rural homemakers' clubs, local government representatives and local residents. In addition to demonstrating how to cook jam in a stove (earthen kitchen), other Olender specialities are presented, e.g. the weaving of an osier fence, a display of equipment and tools used in the production of jam, and those used for digging and processing peat. Moreover, folk artists and small businesses display their products at stalls.

The Ciołkowski family is keen to share their knowledge and skills of the speciality made from sugar beets with the community. Mr Andrzej Ciołkowski is the President of the Association for the Development of the Iłów Land, which revitalises the local community and engages it in various activities, e.g. bike tours, concerts.

Financing details

In 2019, a jam processing facility was set up on the farm, where the production of 'Olender jam' takes place. It received funding of EUR 15 000 from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development from measure M.19.2 support for the implementation of operations under the Local Development Strategy of the LAG 'Aktywni Razem' (The Active United).

More information:

- › Farm 'Pod Jastrzębcem' in Przejma
- › Poland, Mazowieckie voivodship, Sochaczew powiat, Przejma
- › <https://www.facebook.com/PodJastrzebcem/>

How the Polish Rural Network supports LEADER

The Polish Rural Network regularly supports the implementation of the LEADER approach in Poland – it manages the LEADER thematic group, runs training for LAG representatives (most recently on the topics of Smart Villages and in drafting Local Development Strategies), provides occasional support to the Polish LAG Network association, running the LAG database on the Network's website, as well as helping find partners for transnational projects and study visits.

Farm 'Pazikoland' (Operational Group 'Pazikoland')

The farm is engaged in growing vegetables, cereals, and raising laying hens in a closed loop system. The farm owners promote the values of organic production and lifestyle. They produce pickled cucumbers, sauerkraut and flour.



'Pazikoland' is an EPI Operational Group working for the development of short food supply chains composed of five farmers.

Description

The organic farm 'Pazikoland' was founded out of a passion for agriculture and above all to produce certified organic products of the highest quality. The farm, with an area of about 15 ha, has been holding an Organic Farming certificate since 2018.

Objective

The objective of the farm is to continuously improve the quality of the agricultural raw materials produced, using also methods and principles that go beyond the quality standard of organic farming, in order to increase its competitiveness and respond to increasing market and consumer demands.

Activities

The core production involves growing vegetables (1.5 ha) and cereals as well as raising laying hens (300 hens). There is a processing plant on the farm that produces pickled cucumbers and sauerkraut as well as wheat, spelt and rye flours. The farm has a sprinkler system for watering vegetables from the natural source, i.e. a pond, and a manure pad. There are photovoltaic panels on the roof of the farm building, the electricity from which is used to heat the poultry house, cowshed and vegetable storage areas. The farm also has a machine for preparing feed for the hens (a crusher mill) and potato sorting machines.

The owners, Magdalena and Kamil Pazik, promote the values of organic production and a sustainable way of doing business and living. They cooperate with the Ecological Folk High School in Grzybów (see study visit 3), participate in the national convention of organic farmers 'Good Harvest', receive groups of students e.g. from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), the Ecological Folk High School, and share their knowledge at the Expo Fair in Nadarzyn. The farm sells its products through food co-operatives.

In 2021, the farm set up the 'Pazikoland' Operational Group, under measure M16. 'Cooperation' laid down in the RDP 2014-2020. The main goal of the project was to establish a short food supply chain for the distribution and sale of flour, potatoes, sauerkraut and cheese by a group of five farmers. By doing so, the associated farmers increased their market share and eliminated middlemen from the value chain, thereby improving their market position. A multifunctional loader was purchased under the project. 'Pazikoland' has its own online shop at: www.pazikoland.pl

Future plans

There are plans to build a vegetable storage hall on the farm in 2023 in the framework of the National Recovery Plan.



Financing details

Under RDP 2014-2020 the farm received funding: in 2019 from measure M6.3. 'Restructuring of small farms' – to purchase 1.5 ha of land for EUR 14 118 and in 2021 from measure M16 'Cooperation' – EUR 76 470.

More information:

- › Organic farm 'Pazikoland' / Operational Group 'Pazikoland'
- › Poland, Mazowieckie voivodship, Sochaczew powiat, Stare Budy
- › www.pazikoland.pl

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