

SPAIN

European Agricultural Guarantee Fund

Location
Catalonia

Programming period
2014 – 2020

Funding
Total budget 1 163 023.8
(EUR)

Project duration
2020 to 2020

Project promoter
Fruits de Ponent SCA

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Catalan Producer Organisation promotes collective climate action.

Summary

A Fruit and Vegetable Producer Organisation in Spain used CAP funds to help improve its members' environmental performance. Energy and waste actions were the foci of this initiative in Catalonia by the Fruit and Vegetable Producer Organisation 'Fruits de Ponent'. It was supported via a Pilar 1 operational program which helped to strengthen food security, business competitiveness, resource efficiency, and social impacts.



Project Results

- CO2 emissions reduced by 37% compared to 2019.
- Electricity consumption reduced from 0.2254 GJ/t to 0.2088 GJ/t per tonne of production.
- Water consumption reduced from 0.608 (2019) to 0.585 (2020) per cubic metre of floor area.
- 100% of waste recycling target achieved.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Producer Organisations offer useful intervention channels for agri-food and climate policies promoting collective action, synergy, multiple impacts, and economies of scale.
- ❑ Data and digitalisation are effective tools for the agri-food sector's ability to improve the production of both private profit and public goods.
- ❑ Inclusive principles are often inherent to agri-food cooperatives and help ensure that no one is left behind during the transition of agri-food systems.

Context

CAP funds offer Fruit and Vegetable Producer Organisations (FVPO) opportunities to improve economic, environmental, and social benefits. This can include using CAP support to help invest in facilities, equipment, skills, and other key resources. The diverse range of benefits can include improved food security, enhanced technical and economic performance of FVPO members, new and better employment, reduced carbon-footprints, increased resource-efficiency, more biodiversity protection, and positive social impacts.

'Fruits de Ponent' is a FVPO from Catalonia covering four cooperatives containing more than 180 cooperative members. It is focused on improving the FVPO's overall socio-economic and environmental benefits through approaches that apply transparent and democratic participatory decision-making. In the 2020-2021 period 'Fruits de Ponent' produced more than 30 million kg of fruit and exported its products to 19 countries. More than 670 people were employed in the summer fruit season, with an age range of 25 to 50 years old, and more than 62% of them were women.

Objectives

'Fruits de Ponent' has, as one of its objectives, an aim to help improve its members' sustainability by boosting waste minimisation (including recycling) as well as reducing electricity consumption.

Activities

CAP funds from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) were used by 'Fruits de Ponent' to help:

- Install 3 200 roof-top solar panels to generate 1.3MW of power – for use by FVPO members and for sale.
- Install a water treatment plant which enabled the reuse of water for industrial processes, thus reducing water consumption overall.
- Invest in a more sustainable packaging model. Moving away from the use of plastic in exchange for cardboard or biodegradable plastics.

In addition, 'Fruits de Ponent' has an agronomic department aimed exclusively at supporting its members to achieve Integrated Production and Global GAP certification.

An Energy Project Manager was employed as part of the EAGF project to implement activities and monitor impacts vis-a-vis climate change, energy reduction, and water resources.

Main results

The infrastructure investments made it possible to achieve 100% of their waste recycling target and reduce:

- CO2 emissions by 37% compared to 2019.
- electricity consumption from 0.2254 GJ/t to 0.2088 GJ/t per tonne of production.
- water consumption from 0.608 (2019) to 0.585 (2020) per cubic metre of floor area.

Key lessons

Producer Organisations offer useful intervention channels for agri-food and climate policies promoting collective action, synergy, multiple impacts, and economies of scale.

Data and digitisation are key tools to accelerate the agri-food sector's growth and its potential for environmental sustainability. This needs to happen consistently at farm level and throughout the value to optimise benefits. Data and digitisation can be applied during production, processing, packaging, marketing, and monitoring.

Producer Organisations can help leave no-one behind during their development work by proactively designing their operations so that everyone is able to profit from their efforts to achieve sustainability transitions.

"We must use this aid to invest in resources for the future. Each organisation has its strategic line, its vision of competitiveness. But we must include sustainability in all its aspects: we must be competitive and sustainable. That is the future we are working for."

Fruits de Ponent SCA

Additional sources of information

n/a