

Supporting a young farmer with establishing his beekeeping business in Slovakia

A young farmer used CAP funds to establish a beekeeping business.

EAFRD-funded projects

Location: Lučenec, Slovakia

Programming period: 2014-2020

Priority: P2 - Competitiveness

Focus Area: Entry of skilled/younger farmers

Measures: M06 - Farm & business development

Funding:	RDP support	50 000 (EUR)
	EAFRD	37 500 (EUR)
	National/Regional	12 500 (EUR)

Timeframe: 01/02/2021 - 30/06/2022

Project promoter: Juraj Vargic

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Summary

A young farmer from Lučenec, a town in south-central Slovakia, applied for CAP support to establish his own bee farm. This enabled him to acquire 170 bee colonies, and to purchase the material and technical facilities that were needed for his business, including a honey extractor, honey and wax processing equipment, beehives, frames, etc.

Project results

- > The bee farm is now breeding queen bees and produces various bee products including honey, beeswax, propolis, pollen and royal jelly.
- > The bee farm provides a steady source of income for the young farmer, which has enabled him to hire another worker on the farm.

Key lessons and recommendations

- > Setting up as a young farmer requires time and dedication. The CAP provides an essential source of support at this early stage.



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Context

Juraj Vargic is a young farmer from Lučenec, a town in south-central Slovakia. Motivated by his deep affection for bees and a strong desire to contribute to a better and healthier environment, he decided to establish beehives in his local community. After graduating from secondary vocational school, where he studied apiculture, he applied for CAP support to establish his own beekeeping farm.

Objectives

The aim of this agri-food investment project was to help a young farmer start up a large-scale commercial bee-keeping business in Slovakia by co-financing 170 new bee colonies.

Activities

Project activities included:

- > acquiring 170 bee colonies.
- > constructing an apiary and purchasing material and technical facilities including a honey extractor, honey and wax processing equipment, beehives, and comb frames.

Juraj uses five sites for the bees to harvest nectar, this allows him to keep the colonies in good health but also to safeguard a variety of honey.





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Additional information:

[Project information on the Slovakian NN website](#)



Main results

- › The young farmer realised his goal thanks to 50 000 euros of RDP funds for breeding queen bees and undertaking the secondary processing of various bee products including honey, beeswax, propolis, pollen and royal jelly.
- › The bee farm provides a steady source of income, contributing to the young farmer's financial stability.
- › The establishment of the bee farm created an additional job for another bee farm worker, promoting local employment.
- › By participating in accredited courses, the young farmer gained valuable knowledge and skills related to project implementation.
- › Visitors to the farm can learn about beekeeping, pollination, and the importance of bees in the ecosystem. This promotes environmental awareness and education.

Key lessons and recommendations

- › Beekeeping requires passion and intuition.
- › Setting up a new business venture in the primary sector as a young farmer may require time and dedication. Young people may be considered a higher risk, and technical support can help strengthen business confidence in the durability of youth business ideas.
- › CAP support can be a vital development tool for subsidising risks, to help co-finance basic infrastructure and put young rural entrepreneurs' ideas into action.



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