

CZECH REPUBLIC – VYSOCINA

Building a bio-gas station Humpolec

The case study described is an example of an activity that can potentially affect in a positive way the durable linkages between agriculture and other sectors in the rural economy. More specifically, this investment project can potentially result in a more intensive cooperation between municipality and farmers, an increase of local value-added, a diversification of rural economy, a generation of local jobs and can contribute to the environmental protection.

1. Project details:

Nature of the project

Purpose: Establishment of a modern compost manufacturing facility to dispose biodegradable municipal waste of Humpolec.

Content: Compost manufactory and related facilities to ensure an operation of manufactory including equipment (annual capacity of processing is 4,700 t).

Inspiration: Municipality Humpolec required disposing a biodegradable municipal waste and simultaneously meeting the legislative requirements in the area of biodegradable municipal waste disposing. These inspired the municipality to launch this investment.

Policy coherence: The project is coherent with the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Plan of Vysocina Region. It also meets Czech and EU legislative requirements in the area of disposing with biodegradable waste. The project is related to the Operation Programme Environment financed through Cohesion Policy funds.

Links between agriculture and the rest of the economy

Main agricultural sub-sectors involved: Farm Humpolec focused on ecological agriculture and agri-business education. The farm provides maintenance of the unit, transport and disposal of waste. Other local sectors involved include mainly transport, services (ad hoc maintenance) and trade.

Description of these links: The project enables the Farm Humpolec to diversify agricultural activities towards non-agricultural. Forward linkages include utilisation of produced compost to maintain public parks in municipalities. Indirect impact relates to environment protection due to the ecological disposing of waste.

Scale of the project

Size: Small/medium sized compost manufactory (1 hectare of built-up area, 380 square meters of roofed-in area; 8 tanks with capacity of 23 cubic meters for sorted waste).

Time scale: February 2009 – December 2009

Coverage: Local (Humpolec)

Beneficiaries and supporters

Beneficiary: Humpolec municipality

Supporters: Farm Humpolec hired a private consultant to prepare the investment proposal to be in compliance with environment protection.

Finance

Funding:

- a) EU Operational Programme Environment: total cost of 1.42M EUR.
- b) Specific Development Fund of Vysocina Region: total cost of 185,000 EUR.
- c) Municipality Humpolec finances 30% of the total investment: total cost of 690,000 EUR.

Budget: 2.3M EUR, 4 years

Results

Direct results: The results are positive as the compost manufactory solved the problem with a disposing of biodegradable municipal waste of the municipality of Humpolec.

Main target: local community at large

Wider benefits: This unit contributed to the ecological behaviour of the municipality of Humpolec, environment protection and improvement of look of public places as the produced compost is used for maintenance of public parks.

2. Relevance of case study experiences for others

Problems: The biggest problem was the protest of people living near the planned manufactory. They were afraid of environment pollution. The mayor of Humpolec organised seminar where successfully convinced the involved inhabitants of the ecological conception of the project.

Transferability and mainstreaming potential: The project can be replicated successfully elsewhere. The principal of compost manufactory function described is used without significant changes in other twenty units in Vysocina Regions. The results can be adopted by a wider range of actors due to its ecological conception and possibility to solve the problem with biodegradable municipal waste.

Innovation: The project is not innovative as there are another twenty compost manufactories in Vysocina Region. Many municipalities and regions have started to dispose a biodegradable waste due to stricter waste disposal legislation.

Institutional aspects: A longstanding cooperation between the farm Humpolec and the municipality of Humpolec influenced positively the project partnership. The municipality was responsible for the realisation and completion of the project. The farm performs maintenance. No LAG was involved in the project.

Social aspects: The project created 3 full-time local jobs.

Environmental aspects: The project contributed to the environment through ecological process of biodegradable municipal waste disposing. Also, the project implemented environmental terms in accordance to the environmental licence (isolation and drainage of the unit area, small waste water cleaner).



Sustainability: The project is not expected to be self-sufficient and will require continued funding from municipality Humpolec. The project is expected to create durable links with the farm Humpolec and local sectors involving transport and maintenance of the unit. It is planned to use this compost manufactory as a teaching material for students of agricultural schools.

Lessons to pass on: The main lesson learnt is associated with the importance of communication between the person that realizes the project and inhabitants involved (as the conflict of interests can occur).