

## POLAND

### Farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation

#### Location

Lipki Wielkie

#### Programming period

2014 – 2020

#### Priority

P2 – Competitiveness

#### Measure

M4 – Investments in physical assets

#### Funding (EUR)

Total budget 114 482

EAFRD 31 815

National/Regional 18 185

Private 64 482

#### Project duration

2017 – 2017

#### Project promoter

Henryk Sondej

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An agricultural business used RDP support to improve its capacity to process and store its produce, while producing renewable energy from the sun.

### Summary

The farm cultivates over 100 ha of land, 20 ha of which are used to grow vegetables, including potatoes, carrots and beetroots. The farm stores and processes the vegetables and sells them under its own brand. As part of a move to increase the percentage of cultivated land on the farm, an investment project was launched in order to increase storage capacity and to reduce production costs.



In this context, RDP support was used to acquire a reversible plough in order to improve the way the land is prepared for cultivation. In addition to this, a cooling system was installed to create optimal conditions for storing the vegetables. Finally, the RDP support was also used to acquire a photovoltaic installation in order to produce energy for the farm and increase the cost-effectiveness of the entire production process.

### Results

The beneficiary sells 200 tons of processed products per year.

The electricity bills have been reduced, saving about 11.000 PLN per year.

This project allowed the beneficiary to increase the farm's storage capacity by 600 square meters. The space has the capacity to store 1500 tons of vegetables and processed products, which is the farm's entire annual production.

### Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The production of electricity from solar panels undoubtedly reduces the farm's dependence on conventional energy sources and their harmful impact on the environment. However, such an investment requires a substantial contribution of the farmer's own funds, thus it is sadly not an option that is available to every interested party.

## Context

The farm cultivates over 100 ha of land. 20 ha are used to grow vegetables, including potatoes, carrots, beetroots, root parsley, celeriac, leeks, white cabbages, red cabbages, napa cabbages and onions. The farm stores and processes the vegetables (especially the white cabbage and cucumbers) and sells them under its own brand. The farm's sauerkraut (Kapusta Kwaszona Nadnotecka) and the pickled cucumbers (Ogorki Kwaszone Nadnoteckie) obtained the 'traditional product' label from the Ministry of Agriculture in Poland.

Due to the farm's increased production of vegetables, it became necessary to also increase the farm's storage capacity via the installation of a refrigeration system.

In order to address the increased energy costs and environmental impact associated with increased production, the project's measures also included the purchase and installation of photovoltaic panels.

## Objectives

The overall objective of this project was to increase the farm's competitiveness by acquiring the necessary infrastructure to store and sell more produce. In parallel, the beneficiary aimed to limit the increase in production costs and minimize the impact on the environment.

## Activities

First, the reversible plough was purchased to improve field cultivation. This was followed by the acquisition of a modern refrigeration system and photovoltaic installation for the farm's storage facility.

A significant percentage of the project's eligible costs concerned the purchase and installation of the photovoltaic plant and the total investment was realised in one phase.



## Main results

The beneficiary sells 200 tons of processed products per year.

Energy is now acquired from renewable energy sources and the impact on the environment is minimised due to a reduction in the use of energy generated from conventional sources (for ex. coal). At the same time, the electricity bills have been reduced, saving about 11 000 PLN per year.

The farm helped to increase public awareness about so-called "clean energy."

The beneficiary increased his storage capacity to 600 square meters, where he can now store 1500 tons of products: his entire annual production. Thanks to the project, he has less food waste and is able to sell the products at more favourable times of the year while still harvesting at the right time.

## Additional sources of information

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BdsVwQa8AY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BdsVwQa8AY)

[www.gov.pl/web/rolnictwo/ogorki-kiszone-nadnoteckie](http://www.gov.pl/web/rolnictwo/ogorki-kiszone-nadnoteckie)

[www.gov.pl/web/rolnictwo/kapusta-kwaszona-nadnotecka](http://www.gov.pl/web/rolnictwo/kapusta-kwaszona-nadnotecka)

<https://tradycyjneprodukty.pl/produkty/og%C3%B3rki-kwaszone-nadnoteckie>