

ROMANIA

Farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation

Location

Lehliu

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P2 – Competitiveness

Measure

M4 – Investments in physical assets

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 70 000

EAFRD 53 200

National/Regional 13 300

Private 3 500

Project duration

2016 – 2017

Project promoter

Agel Nicula Ltd.

Contact

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Website

n/a

This project aimed to replace old farming machinery and thus improve the productivity and economic performance of a farm holding.

Summary

A farmer in Lehliu, southern Romania, was using old machinery that frequently suffered damage, and without a nearby repair workshop, farming was often very difficult. Other farmers with machinery had to help out, though they would usually do so too late – after they had finished their own work.



Support from the RDP enabled the farmer to acquire new machinery including tractors, a reversible plug, a scarifier and a combinator. The new machines enabled the beneficiary to independently perform the farm work and significantly improve the productivity and economic performance of the holding.

Results

After the project, the cultivated area increased to 390 ha of arable land.

Production costs have been reduced due to the lower fuel consumption of the new machinery.

Using the new combiner enabled more work to be carried out in one pass, which led to fuel and labour savings as well as consequently to increased economic efficiency.

Reducing the number of machine crossings and incorporating plant remains in the ground allowed a good soil structure to be maintained.

Resource management can be performed more efficiently, and the farm has become more efficient economically.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ It is very important to choose a good consultant who can support the development of the project proposal.
- ❑ Potential beneficiaries should not be discouraged by negative stories about applying for support, since a good project proposal can make a huge difference.

Context

Lehliu is a commune in Calarasi County, in southern Romania along the Danube. It is composed of two villages, Lehliu and Săpunari. In 2011 the population of Lehliu was 2 730 inhabitants. The main activities are agriculture and fisheries.

On Costica Nicula's farm farming activities were carried out using old machinery that frequently suffered damage and constantly needed repair. Repairing the machinery was problematic due to the lack of specialised workshops in the commune. Help was requested from other farmers who had machinery to carry out the farm work though they would usually respond too late, after they finished their own work. Thus, it was often not possible to carry out farm work in due time.

Objectives

The main objectives of this project were to gain the capacity to independently perform farm work through the use of modern machinery and thus increase the productivity and economic performance of the holding.

Activities

The farmer contacted an experienced consultant and together, in about three to four weeks, they drew up a viable project plan that would allow them to acquire the necessary equipment. The project application was submitted in August 2015 and was quickly declared eligible for funding. In January 2016 the financing contract was signed. As a procurement project, the activities took place quite quickly and the contract / project was completed on 11.07.2017.

The equipment purchased through this grant included a tractor of 320 hp, a tractor of 115 hp, one reversible plug, one scarifier with 5 anchors, a combinator and a trans-shipment trailer. In addition, a telescopic boom loader was purchased using the farmer's own funds as this was not accepted in the project.

Main results

After the project, the cultivated area increased to 390 ha of arable land.

Thanks to the new machinery the works are performed correctly and on time.

Production costs have been reduced due to the lower fuel consumption of the new machinery.

Using the new combiner enabled more work to be carried out in one pass, which led to fuel and labour savings as well as consequently to increased economic efficiency.

Reducing the number of machine crossings enabled a good soil structure to be maintained.

The new machinery allowed the issue of plant debris to be resolved by incorporating it into the soil, thus contributing to increased fertility.

Resource management can be carried out more efficiently, and the farm has become more efficient economically.

Key lessons

It is very important to choose a good consultant who can support the development of the project proposal.

Potential beneficiaries should not be discouraged by negative stories about applying for support, since a good project proposal can make a huge difference.

"Thanks to the project, I managed to have my own business, to capitalise on the knowledge gained in the agricultural field, to gain experience in order to manage the resources as efficiently as possible, in order to have an economically viable holding in the long run".

Costica Necula, farmer



Additional sources of information

www.primarialehliu.ro