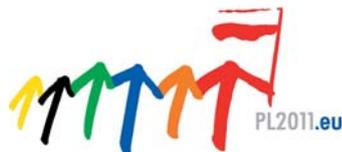
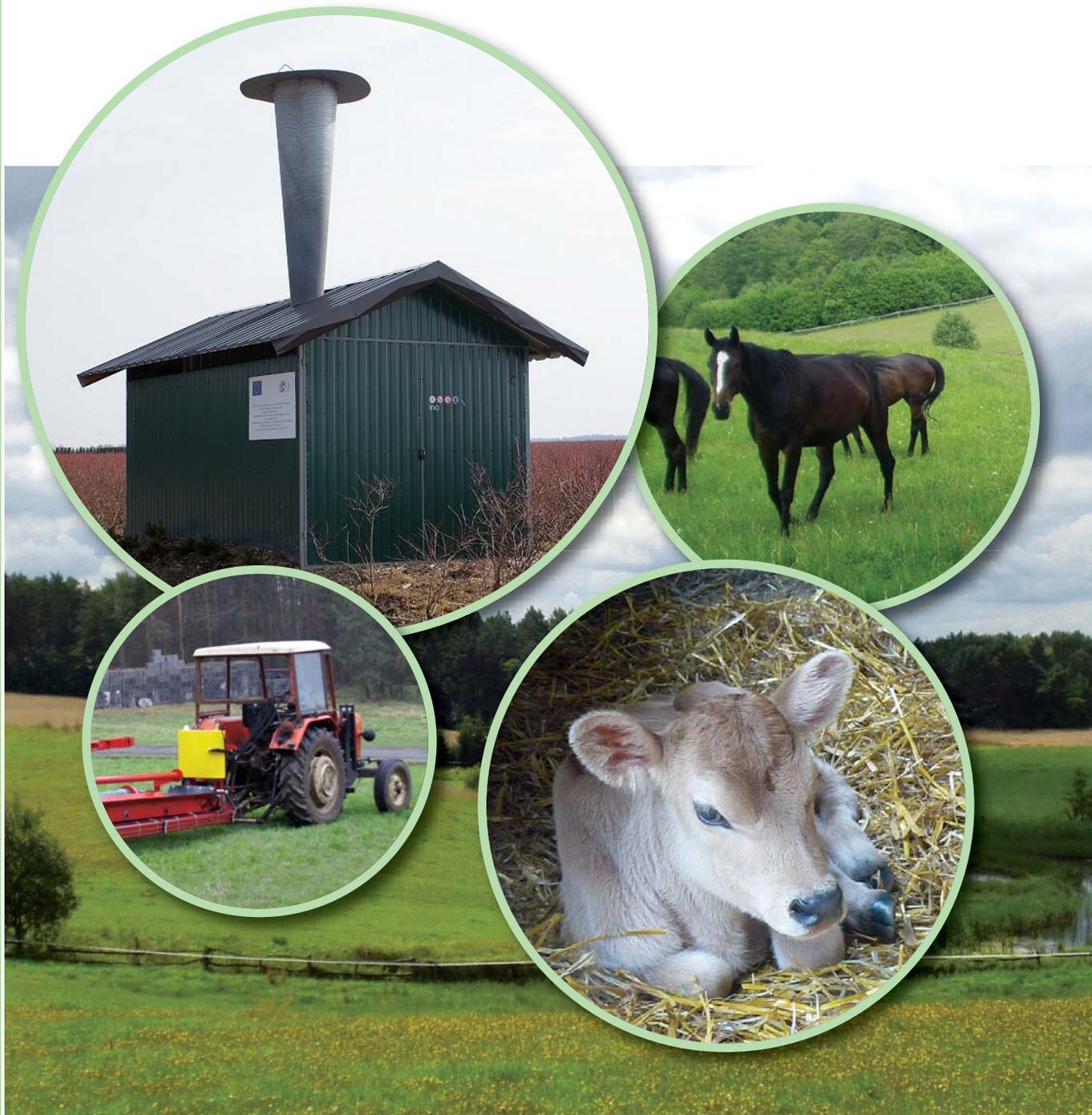




Europejski Fundusz Rolny na rzecz
Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich



Program
Rozwoju
Obszarów
Wiejskich
na lata 2007-2013



CATALOGUE OF GOOD PRACTICES OF BENEFICIARIES OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2007-2013

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Europe, a debate is being conducted about the future of the EU agricultural policy after 2013. Regardless of the solutions to be adopted, Polish agriculture should be prepared for changes. This means maintenance of its high competitiveness and a stable path of development. Farmers must be supported by the effective policy of the economic development of Polish rural areas, conducive to increasing employment in these areas, as well as of the implementation of measures aimed at improving the state of the natural environment and preserving the traditional countryside.

The basic instrument allowing to implement the above – mentioned objectives is the Rural Development Programme for 2007–2013 under which Poland has approximately PLN 70 billion to be committed. This programme provides a huge opportunity for improving the competitiveness of agricultural holdings, their modernisation, development of non – agricultural entrepreneurship of rural residents and thereby for increasing their income and standard of living.

How to use this opportunity? In this publication, we present the examples of projects carried out under RDP 2007–2013 which may give you a guidance on how to correctly plan and effectively implement the strategy for development of a holding or enterprise, what ideas and initiatives receive financial support.

Tomasz Kołodziej
President of ARMA

Rural Development Programme for 2007–2013 (RDP 2007–2013)

Rural areas are an integral part of the geographical, economic and social structure of the European Union. They occupy approximately 90% of its territory and are inhabited by more than 56% of EU citizens.¹ Therefore, the Community pursues an active policy aimed at development of the European rural areas. This strategy focuses not only on the growth of agricultural production but also on enhancing the attractiveness of the rural areas as a place to live and work. The main objective of the EU rural development policy is to meet the challenges faced by residents of the rural areas and to use their potential.

In the years 2007–2013, the EU rural development policy focuses on three issues (so – called "thematic axes"). They are:

- improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector;
- improving the environment and the countryside;
- improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy.

Around the above – mentioned thematic axes, the objectives of the Rural Development Programme were developed. This Programme was created to manage funds allocated for supporting rural development in the light of such priority directions as: improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector, improving the environment in rural areas, improving the quality of life of rural residents, diversification of the rural economy, the implementation of strategies of development, co-operation and mobilisation of local communities.

The Polish rural areas occupy a special place on the map of the European Union – they constitute more than 93% of the area of our country and are inhabited by 39% of the total population.² The total number of the rural population in Poland is similar to that in France, lower than that in Germany (by almost 6 million) and Italy (by more than 4 million) and significantly higher when compared to the other countries of the Community. The Polish rural areas are inhabited by about 11% of all EU rural residents.

Agriculture is an important sector of the Polish economy and it employs 15% of the workers.³ Poland occupies the second place in the EU (after Romania) in terms of the number of agricultural holdings.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_pl.htm

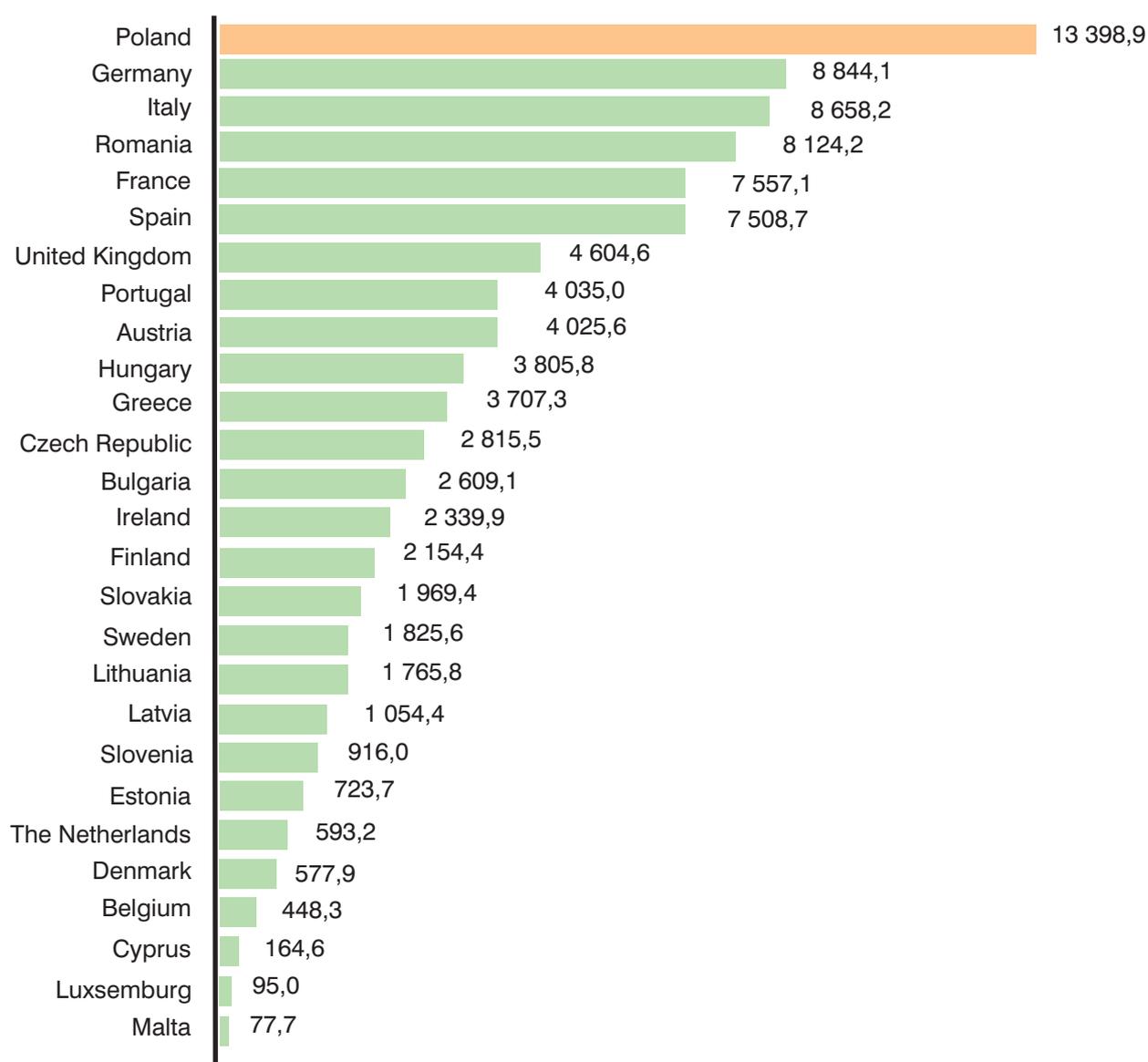
² Rural areas in Poland, Statistical studies and analyses, CSO, Warsaw, Olsztyn 2011, p. 134

³ Agriculture and Food Economy in Poland, MRiGŻ, Warsaw 2008, p.36

Modernisation and rural development as well as development of the agri – food sector are one of the priorities of using EU funds in Poland. Therefore, in the pursued policy the particular importance is attached to the instruments of support addressed to, in various forms, the rural areas under the Common Agricultural Policy.

Poland is one of the major CAP beneficiaries. For the implementation of the tasks of RDP 2007–2013, it received the largest pool of funds, among EU countries (EUR 13,4 billion), from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (Chart 1). These funds are supplemented by a contribution from the national budget which is EUR 4 billion. As part of the EAFRD expenditure, also the obligations from the years 2004–2006 in the amount of EUR 3 billion, taken under the Rural Development Plan 2004–2006, are financed.

Chart 1. EAFRD by individual EU Member States, in million EUR.



Source: pursuant to the European Commission, Directorate-General For Agriculture And Rural Development, Directorate G. Horizontal aspects of rural development, AGRI/2009/412921-EN, <http://circa.europa.eu/>

The measures of RDP for 2007–2013 are implemented under 4 strategic priority axes (Table 1).

Table 1. Budget of RDP 2007–2013 in Poland, by axes (in billion EUR).

	EAFRD	Financing from the state budget	TOTAL	%
Axis 1: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector	5,6	1,8	7,5	43,0
Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside	4,3	1,1	5,4	30,9
Axis 3: Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy	2,6	0,9	3,5	20,1
Axis 4. LEADER	0,6	0,2	0,8	4,5
Technical assistance	0,2	0,1	0,3	1,5
TOTAL	13,4	4,0	17,4	100,0

Source: European Commission Decision of 18.01.2010 on approval of amendments to the Rural Development Programme for Poland for 2007–2013.

The implementation of RDP 2007–2013 by ARMA in the years 2007–2010

Since the moment of Poland's accession to the European Union, ARMA has been playing a key role in the process of the implementation of programmes co – financed from the Community budget which are addressed to agriculture.

In the years 2007–2013, ARMA acts as the paying agency for most instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy (direct payments, RDP for 2007–2013) and as the entity implementing 14 of 22 measures of RDP 2007–2013 and technical assistance.

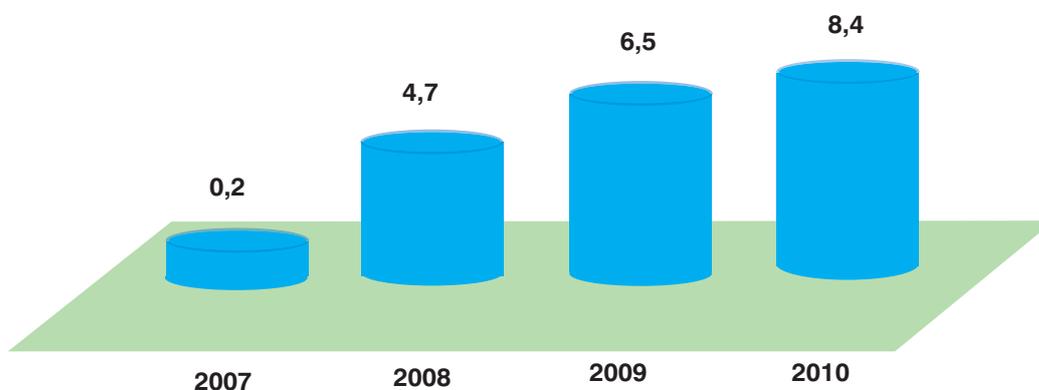
The process of ARMA's accreditation as the paying agency for RDP 2007–2013 was completed in 2009. The Agency received full powers to implement all aid measures and technical assistance. Thereby, ARMA met the EU standards and may fully handle the measures of RDP 2007–2013. The Agency also makes payments for all the measures of RDP 2007–2013.

The Managing Authority of RDP (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) has delegated some tasks to other entities, while keeping the full responsibility for the effectiveness and adequacy of management and performance of these tasks. The tasks of the Managing Authority with regard to the implementation of RDP 2007–2013 are performed by the following entities:

- Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (ARMA);
ARMA is the entity implementing 14 (of 22) measures. This function includes primarily the tasks associated with acceptance and handling an aid application, monitoring the progress of the implementation of the measures and reporting. ARMA is also responsible for the implementation of technical assistance under the Programme.
- Foundation of Assistance Programmes for Agriculture (FAPA) with regard to 1 measure;
- Agricultural Market Agency (AMA) with regard to 1 measure;
- regional self – governments with regard to 6 measures.

By 30 April 2011, ARMA paid to the beneficiaries, under all active measures of RDP 2007–2013 the amount of almost PLN 23 billion, including PLN 8,5 billion due to the financial obligations from the years 2004–2006. Every year, the pace of payments from the funds of RDP 2007–2013 implemented by ARMA progressively increases (Chart 2).

Chart 2. The amount of aid granted under RDP 2007–2013 in individual years of the Programme implementation in billion PLN, as of 31.12.2010.



Since the beginning of the Programme implementation, most funds of RDP for 2007–2013 have been received by the following regions: Mazowieckie, Wielkopolskie, Lubelskie and least by the regions: Opolskie, Śląskie and Lubuskie (Chart 3).

Chart 3. Aid granted by ARMA under RDP 2007–2013 by regions in million PLN, as of 30.04.2011.

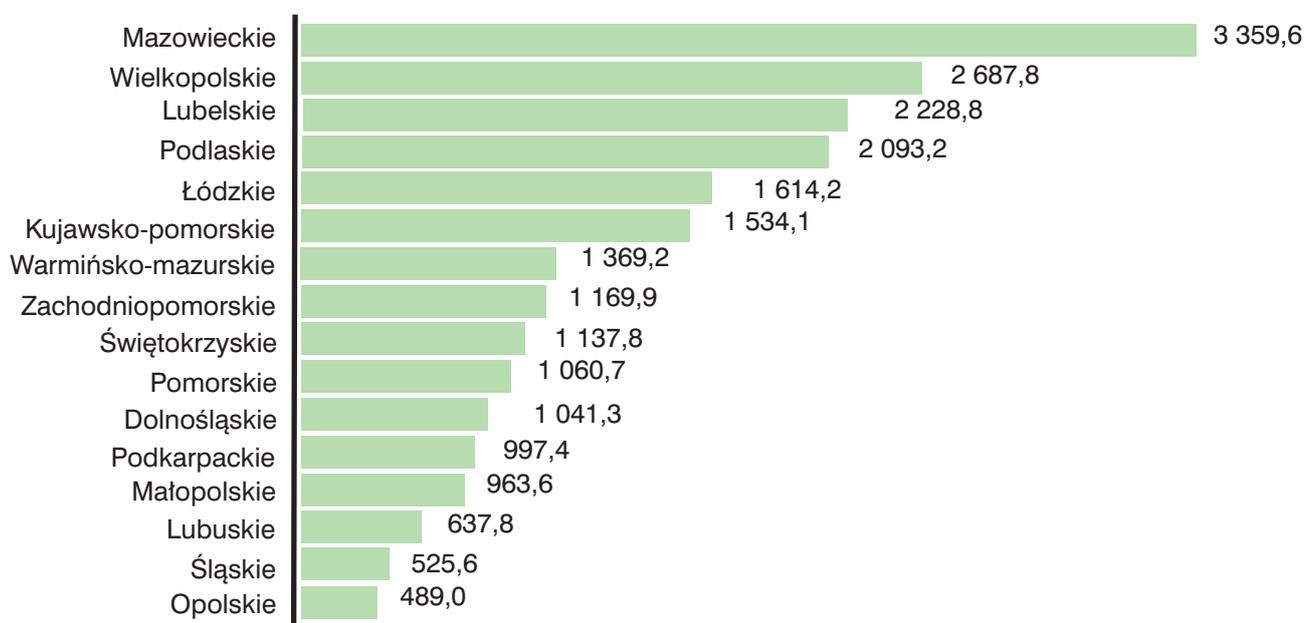


Table 2. Payments made under RDP 2007–2013 and the obligations from the years 2004–2006 by individual measures, as of 30.04.2011.

Measures of RDP	million PLN	%
211/212 – Support of management in mountain areas and in less favoured areas (LFAs)	5 380,4	23,4%
113 – Early retirement	4 331,9	18,9%
121 – Modernisation of agricultural holdings	3 731,6	16,2%
214 – Agri-environmental programme	3 571,8	15,6%
141 – Supporting semi-subsistence holdings – obligations from the years 2004–2006	2 100,9	9,1%
123 – Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production	694,8	3,0%
322/323/313 – Village renewal and development	667,0	2,9%
112 – Setting up of young farmers	642,4	2,8%
321 – Basic services for the economy and rural population	574,3	2,5%
221/223 – Afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land	365,1	1,6%
311 – Diversification into non – agricultural activities	281,2	1,2%
142 – Agricultural producer groups	171,1	0,7%
312 – Establishment and development of micro – enterprises	161,2	0,7%
431 – Running of the Local Action Group	100,0	0,4%
125 – Improvement and development of infrastructure related to the development and adjustment of agriculture and forestry	70,6	0,3%
Technical assistance	53,0	0,2%
4.1/413 – Implementing the local development strategy	50,1	0,2%
114 – Advisory services for farmers and forest owners	10,2	0,04%
132 – Participation of farmers in food quality schemes	3,5	0,02%
111 – Vocational training for persons employed in agriculture and forestry	1,6	0,01%
126 – Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention instruments	1,1	0,005%
226 – Restoring forestry production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention instruments	0,6	0,003%
133 – Information and publicity	0,2	0,001%
4.21 – Implementing the cooperation projects	0,1	0,0003%
TOTAL	22 964,7	100,0000%

Modernisation of agricultural holdings

Characteristics of the measure

The main aim of the measure is to increase the efficiency of agricultural holdings by supporting the processes of their modernisation. Co - financing covered initiatives aimed at harmonisation of the conditions of agricultural production with the requirements on the protection of the environment, hygiene of production, animal welfare and food safety. The effect of investments carried out in holdings should be the increased quality of their production and its diversification. Thanks to this, they may become more and more competitive.

Aid is granted for investments regarding modernisation or development of primary plant or animal production, excluding forestry and fishery production. Operations may relate to the manufacture of food and non - food products as well as preparation of agricultural products produced in the holding for sale. The scope of operations may include investments associated with generation and use of energy from renewable sources for the purposes of agricultural production. The beneficiary of aid may be a natural person, legal person, partnership running the agricultural activity in the field of plant or animal production. Co - financing may amount to maximum 40 to 60% of the investment costs. Aid exceeding 40% of the investment value involves the necessity for the beneficiary to fulfill specific requirements – for example, receiving the support amounting to 60% of the investment costs is possible if the operation is carried out in mountain areas and other less - favoured areas (LFAs) by a natural person who on the day of submitting the aid application was under 40. Aid is granted and paid up to the limit which in the period of the Programme implementation is maximum PLN 300 000 per one beneficiary and one holding.

By 31 December 2010, 25 012 operations were implemented, most of which (23 158) regarded the purchase of equipment and mobile devices. From the point of view of the beneficiaries' activity profile, 32,6% of the operations were implemented in holdings where the main direction of production was farming of dairy cattle. In holdings specializing in field cultivation, 27,8% of the operations were implemented and 13,4% were implemented in holdings where the main direction of the activity was farming of swine. In terms of the area of the beneficiaries' holding, about 57% of the operations were implemented in holdings with an area from 5 to 30 ha. Among all the implemented operations, 9,7% (2 207 operations) regarded holdings acquired or enlarged under the measure Early retirement.

Modernisation of agricultural holdings



Modernisation of a holding's machinery park

The scope of the project

The purchase of agricultural machinery and a computer set with software.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary runs a holding with an area of more than 42 ha oriented towards field cultivation of wheat, rapeseed and barley. In the past, the farmer benefited from support under SOP "Restructuring...". He allocated funds for hardening the access road and manoeuvre area.

Description of the project

The owner of the holding allocated another subsidy for the purchase of agricultural machinery and equipment, including a tractor with loader, sprayer, combined cultivator and seed drill, 4 - furrow plough, two agricultural trailers and broadcast spreader. Thanks to additional equipment for the machinery park, the holding became independent of external services.

Moreover, the beneficiary purchased a computer set and software for managing the holding.

The application allows, inter alia, to record agricultural parcels, agrotechnical procedures, facilitate drawing up fertilization plans, plans for using plant protection products.

The data recorded by the application allow the farmer to compare results achieved by the holding in successive years.

REGION:	OPOLSKIE
COMMUNE:	LASOWICE WIELKIE
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	484 942,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	235 200,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	176 400,25 PLN



Modernisation of agricultural holdings



Modernisation of a holding specializing in milk production

The scope of the project

The purchase of an automatic cow milking system.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary owns a foundation stock of 60 milk cows. His main activity profile is production of milk and feed for animals. The total area of the holding is approximately 45 ha (25 ha are leased).

Under SOP "Restructuring...", the farmer purchased the machinery with a total value of around PLN 300 000, including a tractor, bale wrapper, tanker for transporting liquid fertilizer and fodder wagon for mixing feeds.

Description of the project

The beneficiary received financial support for the purchase of a so - called milking robot. This is a modern system for automatic cow milking. The robot consists of a milking box, buffer tank with a capacity of 180 litres, compressor and computer. The machine ensures the animals optimum comfort and guarantees total freedom of movement. This means that at the moment which is the most appropriate for them, cows voluntarily enter the box in which they are milked. They do it willingly because there is a feed trough inside. If they enter the box too early, they are automatically released and do not get feed.

The practice shows that one milking robot may be used by about 60 cows. The process of milking one cow lasts on average about 8 minutes. At this time, the robot automatically identifies the cow. It is possible thanks to special responders attached to each cow. The responders are electronic readers containing encoded information, such as, inter alia, the age of the cow, milk performance, past diseases, detection of the estrous period, regurgitation (rumination) and the last calving. As a result, the milking parameters are set individually for each animal and even for each teat.

The milking process is fully automated and does not require human involvement. In the floor of the box, a weighing scales is installed. Owing to this, the robot may accurately assess the position of the cow. The teat location system, using a laser beam, scans the underside of the udder. When the teats are identified, the robot appropriately adjusts the arm which is equipped with special milking cups and mechanical brushes to clean the udder and teats.



Modernisation of agricultural holdings

The process of cleaning before milking is carried out without the use of water. Brushing performs not only hygienic functions. Stimulation of the teats and udder favourably influences the secretion of milk and helps to reduce the time of so – called blind milking, i. e. the time between connection of milk sucking milking cups and the moment when milk starts flowing. After milking, the teats and udder are sprayed with disinfectants and milking cups are cleaned using hot steam and rinsed with cold water.

The milking robot arm is equipped with a system for assessing the quality of collected milk. It checks its color, measures the content of fat, protein and lactose. It also assesses milk in terms of the somatic cell count individually from each quarter of the udder.

Milk identified as milk of the lower quality, containing blood or for any other reasons unfit for consumption, flows into separate tanks. Milk of the high quality flows into a cooler where it is stored pending transport to a dairy.

The computer being a part of the purchased set is equipped with software which helps the farmer manage the stock. It stores the information about how often the cows enter the box, how much they weigh, data on feed consumption, on the quality of milk produced. Thanks to this, it is possible to accurately assess the health status of the individual cows. The stock performance data recorded by the application help the farmer calculate the optimum balance of costs and benefits in the holding.

By using the milking robot, the owner of the holding does not need to watch the fixed time of milking in the morning and in the evening or engage persons who previously helped him in milking. The new system also improved the milk production performance, by increasing the frequency of milking (daily average of milkings is 2,9 per cow). The amount of milk delivered monthly per one cow increased by almost 3 litres.



REGION:	MAZOWIECKIE
COMMUNE:	MORDY
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	604 736,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	297 411,60 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	233 058,70 PLN



Modernisation of agricultural holdings



Modern equipment for a poultry farm

The scope of the project

The purchase of a computerised microclimate control system, equipment for feeding and watering chickens and automatic nests for egg collection.

Beneficiary

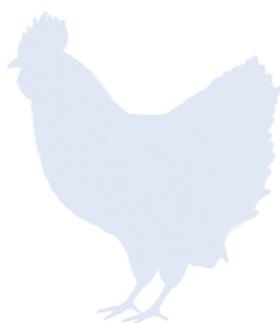
The beneficiary runs a poultry farm. It has around 40 thousand chickens of meat breeds which are kept for reproductive purposes. Eggs are sold to holdings running chicken hatcheries. For reproductive purposes, chickens between 5 and 10 months of age are used. Birds older than 10 months are sold for meat. In the territory of the farm, there are two buildings for poultry with an area of more than 3,500 m² each.

Description of the project

Within the framework of the investment, the modern farm management system was installed which consists of a control computer, fans, heaters, sprinklers, sensors and devices for automatic watering and feeding poultry. In addition, the owner of the farm equipped it with an agricultural feed bin and nests for automatic egg collection.

The management system enables full control of the microclimate in the farm. The control computer collects information delivered by thermometers and sensors measuring the air humidity. Depending on the need, it activates the fans used for ventilating the rooms, turns on the sprinklers and heating as well as controls the lighting system. To the computer, the devices in charge of automatic watering and feeding poultry are connected. The user has an opportunity to prepare own feeding schedule. Feed is taken from the feed bins, mixed and administered to chickens at designated times.

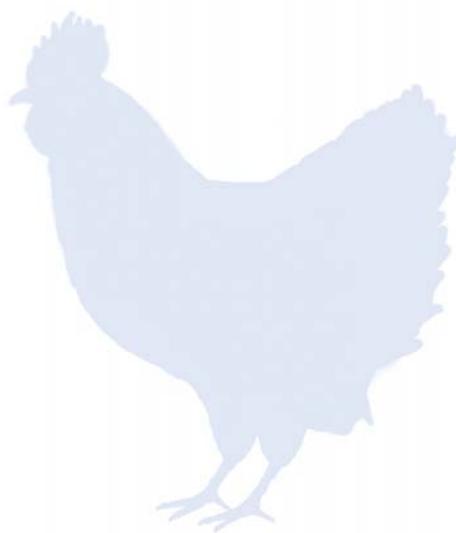
REGION:	WIELKOPOLSKIE
COMMUNE:	MARGONIN
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	757 050,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	300 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	225 000,00 PLN



Modernisation of agricultural holdings

The modern nests for automatic egg collection allowed to reduce losses in a form of broken or soiled eggs. Previously, eggs were collected several times a day. By that time, they were lying in the nests where they were exposed to being crushed or soiled by chickens. The new nests are installed at an angle and not, as in case of the traditional nests, horizontally. Thanks to this, eggs immediately after being laid roll down onto a belt passing through the centre of the nest station and the belt delivers them to the place of storage.

The modern farm management system reduced workload of the persons involved in running of the holding. Many activities, such as, for example, feeding, watering or egg collection have been automated. The information about the conditions in the farm, temperature, air humidity, water and feed consumption are stored in the computer memory. Thanks to this, the user may easily analyse the data which have an impact on the production volume.



Modernisation of agricultural holdings



The use of solar collectors in a holding specializing in growing herbs

The scope of the project

The purchase of flat solar collectors.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary has an agricultural holding of 20 ha, is engaged in growing herbs such as lemon balm, sage, thyme, mint, Valerian and St. John's wort. Drying takes place in the holding, in a specially adapted room. In order to reduce the manufacturing costs, for several years the farmer has been investing in his activities. Under the SAPARD programme, he purchased the center pivot irrigation system, a device for irrigation of field crops and built a well.

Description of the project

Another subsidy allowed to install the system of flat solar collectors, colloquially known as solars. They are devices converting solar energy into heat. The purchased set is composed of 100 collectors with a total area of 200 m², plate heat exchanger and a water tank with a capacity of 10,000 litres.

The collectors were mounted on the roofs of the farm buildings. They are connected in one circuit filled with a special, non-freezing working liquid, i.e. glycol. Sunrays heat up glycol which due to the operation of the pumps is still in motion.

Through pipes, it flows to the so-called plate heat exchanger where it heats up water whose circuit is connected directly to special drying devices i.e. heaters. The heaters located in the drying room heat up the air which is distributed around the room by means of the fans.



REGION:	KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	LUBRANIEC
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	240 639,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	112 448,50 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	84 336,37 PLN

Modernisation of agricultural holdings

The collectors are fully efficient by nearly 150 days a year. On the remaining days, they are replaced by the traditional central heating system. Thanks to the purchased tank, it is possible to store heat generated by the collectors. Therefore, also on sunny days they work all the time, even when there are no herbs in the drying room. Water heated up by glycol is stored in the tank and later on it may be used to fill the heaters.

Application of the solars allowed the beneficiary to reduce the costs associated with the purchase of fuel and electricity. Thanks to the investment, the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere was also reduced.



Modernisation of agricultural holdings



Modernisation of a horticultural holding

The scope of the project

The purchase of machinery and accessories for digging up ornamental plants.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary runs a horticultural nursery which was established on the basis of an agri-horticultural holding with an area of 24 ha. He took it over from the farmer who has been granted early retirement. Since 1998, seedlings of trees and ornamental shrubs of varieties well adapted to the Polish climatic conditions have been grown in the holding. The owner of the nursery conducts wholesale and retail sale of trees and ornamental shrubs.

Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary purchased a mini excavator together with the necessary accessories which is used for digging up plants. It is equipped with blades and a cutting element which cuts off the roots. The machine operator is able to set specific parameters for its operation, i.e. the depth and width of the thrust of the blades into the ground, taking into account the specific nature of the root mass of a given tree species. Root masses are cut out using a bow - shaped knife. The crane is lifting the plant up and the root mass is manually shielded by means of a jute mesh and then a metal mesh, for security purposes.

The use of the machine streamlined the process of replanting plants and preparation of the trees and bushes for sale.



REGION:	ŁÓDZKIE
COMMUNE:	DALIKÓW
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	189 100,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	93 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD: :	69 750,00 PLN

Modernisation of agricultural holdings



Improvement of conditions of plant cultivation in a horticultural holding

The scope of the project

Equipping the greenhouse with horizontal curtain.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the owner of a holding with an area of more than 13 ha. The main direction of his activity is horticulture, he specializes in cultivation of tomatoes. He has two greenhouses. One is about 1600 m², the other - successively built - currently occupies the area of 9 792 m².

Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, the owner of the holding purchased horizontal curtains, i.e. a system allowing to control the climate conditions in the greenhouse. The tomato is a plant with high heat requirements, sensitive to cold and frost, at individual stages of growth it requires a suitable temperature.

The curtains, mounted horizontally under the roof of the greenhouse protect against excessive solar radiation or against the loss of heat. They are automatically opened by a driving system that is controlled by a climate computer installed in the greenhouse. This device is responsible for controlling and maintaining the desired conditions in the greenhouse i.e. temperature, humidity, light intensity, CO₂ concentration. To the computer, 3 sensors for measuring the climate parameters inside and outside the greenhouse are connected. Through them, the computer collects and processes information on the weather conditions. Adjustment of the microclimate inside the greenhouse takes place through appropriate opening and closing of the curtains, until the desired parameters are obtained.

The curtains also perform an energy - saving function thanks to which consumption of fuel decreased. Their use reduces losses of heat during the autumn - winter period, while providing, all year long, the optimum weather conditions for crops.



REGION:	KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	DRAGACZ
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	363 560,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING: :	119 200,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	89 400,00 PLN

Modernisation of agricultural holdings



Hail cannons on a plantation of Northern highbush blueberry

The scope of the project

The purchase of three hail cannons.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary runs an agricultural holding with an area of approximately 323 ha. The main direction of production is cultivation of Northern high - bush blueberry on the area of about 134 ha and mixture of cereals on the area of about 49 ha. The remaining part of the holding is occupied by meadows, ponds and forests.

Description of the project

In view of the increasing interest of customers, the area of cultivation of Northern highbush blueberry in Poland is still growing. The plant is characterised by the significant resistance to frost but the temperature exceeding -20°C damages flower buds and parts of shoots.



Modernisation of agricultural holdings

The main problem which the grower faced, however, were seasonal hailstorms which within a few seconds may destroy the entire yield. For this reason, he decided to equip his holding with hail systems. Their function is to send high-energy shock waves in the direction of the upper layers of the atmosphere. The waves reach a height of approximately 15 km, i.e. the level of clouds where hail is formed. As a result of the ionization process, hail falls to the Earth in a form of rain or wet snow. These systems, called hail cannons, have been used for more than 25 years by fruit - growers in France, Spain, Austria and Belgium. One cannon protects the area of approximately 80 ha against hail.

The purchase of the cannons allowed the grower to protect crops against hail. Thanks to the new investment, the holding has become more competitive than others with a similar profile of the activity.

REGION:	PODLASKIE
COMMUNE:	JANÓW
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	546 960,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	300 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	225 000,00 PLN



Setting up of young farmers

Characteristics of the measure

The aim of the measure is to stimulate structural changes in the agricultural sector by facilitating the acquisition or establishment of agricultural holdings by young people with appropriate professional qualifications. Aid is intended solely for persons who for the first time start running an agricultural holding on themselves.

Aid may be applied for by a person who intends to start, for the first time, running the agricultural activity in an agricultural holding or a person who:

- started running the agricultural activity not earlier than within 12 months before submitting an aid application and acquired the holding as a result of:
 - inheritance
 - donation before turning 18 or after turning 18 but in the course of education;
- was the owner or holder of an agricultural property with an area of arable land of at least 1 ha, acquired by inheritance, but sold that property or shares in its joint ownership within 12 months from the date of its acquisition.

Additional requirements are contained in the provisions concerning running the agricultural activity by the applicant's spouse and the area of the holding.¹

Together with the application, the applicant is obliged to submit a farm development plan (business plan).

Aid granted under the measure "Setting up of young farmers" is a single premium amounting to PLN 75,000. An important proviso with regard to the use of the received premium is the requirement to allocate at least 70% of the amount for investments provided for in the business plan.

By 31 December 2010, 5 926 young farmers benefited from aid. The amount paid to them was more than PLN 302,8 million. In view of the economic size, small holdings are brought to the forefront in the structure of support. Nearly 11% of the holdings were created as a result of handing them over to young farmers by persons applying for early retirement.

Among the directions of the activity conducted by young farmers, 39,8% is mixed production, i.e. field cultivation combined with farming, 34,3% is plant production and 14.0% is milk production.

¹See: Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of October 17, 2007 on the detailed conditions and method of granting financial aid under the measure Setting up of young farmers covered by the Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013 (Journal of Laws 2007 no. 200, item 727 as amended).

Setting up of young farmers



Development of the breeding of fallow deer

The scope of the project

The purchase of animals and building the infrastructure necessary to extend the breeding of fallow deer.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary has a holding with an area of nearly 11 ha where he breeds fallow deer. These animals have small habitat requirements, are resistant to diseases and adapted to living in natural meadows.

In Europe, including Poland, they are kept primarily for meat. Running a farm of fallow deer is not difficult. It is not labour - intensive and creates opportunities for the use of soils unfit for cultivation purposes.

Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, the breeder bought 14 does in fawn and 1 buck. This allowed to increase the genetic diversity of the herd. He also built a catch pen, i.e. a room for trapping the individual animals and fence for grazing fields, i.e. separated areas where fallow deer graze.

The purchase of animals allowed to increase the production potential of the holding and the newly built facilities streamlined the works associated with the breeding.



REGION:	ŚLĄSKIE
COMMUNE:	KRZEPICE
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	50 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	37 500,00 PLN



Setting up of young farmers



The apparatus for picking stone fruit

The scope of the project

The purchase of a cleaning and shaking apparatus for picking stone fruit.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary runs an agricultural holding with an area of nearly 13 ha. The main direction of production is cultivation of cherries, plums and currants.

Description of the project

Thanks to the subsidy, the farmer purchased the cleaning and shaking apparatus for picking stone fruit. Cherries or plums are picked by way of shaking them down, by way of a fruit shaker mounted on the apparatus, onto the screen lying on the ground. Fruits are moved onto the transporter and transported to cleaning which consists in removing stalks and separating leaves. Cleaned fruits fall down into boxes or pallet cases. The boxes are unloaded manually while the full pallet case is lowered hydraulically.

The apparatus is operated by five persons. Depending on the crew efficiency, picking fruit from one tree takes from 1 to 1,5 minutes. Thanks to the machine, the experienced workers are able to pick fruit from about 0,5 to 0,7 ha per day.

The use of the apparatus made work during fruit picking easier. Automation of this process allowed to eliminate the costs related to a necessity to employ a large number of seasonal workers.

REGION:	ŁÓDZKIE
COMMUNE:	DAMOSIN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	50 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	37 500,00 PLN



Setting up of young farmers



A young farmer starts protected cultivation of vegetables

The scope of the project

Construction of two plastic tunnels, the purchase of irrigation installations.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary conducts the agricultural activity in a holding with an area of almost 20 ha. A large part of the land is occupied by meadows. The area is boggy and requires draining. The other part of the holding is a cherry orchard and strawberry plantations.

Description of the project

In order to increase income, the young farmer decided to start protected cultivation of vegetables. Financial support allowed him to build two tunnels with an area of 210 m² each, where he cultivates tomatoes and cucumbers. As part of the investment, the beneficiary has also installed the so - called drip irrigation system. In each tunnel, on the ground, 8 rubber hoses are laid which are connected to the water installation operating in the holding.

REGION:	WIELKOPOLSKIE
COMMUNE:	KAZIMIERZ BISKUPI
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	50 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	37 500,00 PLN

Application of the protections works well in case of thermophilic plants such as tomatoes and cucumbers. This cultivation method provides them with better conditions for development with less effort. Construction of the tunnels allowed to accelerate the harvest by about 2 months.



Diversification into non - agricultural activities

Characteristics of the measure

The aim of the measure is to promote non - agricultural or agriculture - related economic initiatives which may become a source of income for farmers, their spouses, as well as other household members.

Aid is granted due to taking up or developing the activity with regard to:

- services for agricultural holdings or forestry;
- services for the population;
- wholesale and retail sale;
- craft or handicraft;
- construction and installation works and services;
- tourist services and services associated with sport, recreation and leisure;
- transport services;
- municipal services;
- processing of agricultural products or edible forest products;
- storage of goods;
- production of energy from biomass;
- accounting, consultancy or IT services.

The beneficiary of the measure may be a natural person insured pursuant to the act of 20 December 1990 on social insurance for farmers, as the farmer, the spouse of the farmer or the household member.

Aid is granted in the form of reimbursement of partial costs classified as costs eligible for support. The maximum level of financial aid may be 50% of eligible costs. Aid is granted and paid up to the limit which in the period of the Programme implementation is maximum PLN 100 000 per beneficiary.

As part of the measure, by 31 December 2010, the funds were paid to 3 001 beneficiaries who implemented 2 848 operations. In 81% of the cases, the applicants were farmers, 16% were spouses of farmers while 3% were household members. The beneficiaries were involved primarily in projects related to starting the service activity for agricultural holdings or forestry. 53,6% of the implemented operations were related to that objective. Among other projects, 15% of them regarded services for the population, 11,1% - construction and installation works and services and 8,9% - services related to sport, recreation and leisure.

Diversification into non - agricultural activities



Modernisation of a ski lift

The scope of the project

The purchase of a snow cannon and a quad.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the spouse of the person who runs an agricultural holding. He is the owner of a tourist complex which is composed of a ski lift, park, horse stud, guest house, dumpling house and hotel.

Description of the project

The beneficiary purchased a modern snow cannon and a quad. Providing artificial snow on the slope using the cannon allowed to extend the ski season up to 30 days per year. The use of the quad enables fast reaching each location at the ski lift route of 600 meters. This made removing malfunctions more efficient and reduced down-times to a minimum.

The safety conditions were also improved. In the event of an accident, the quad allows to carry out an efficient rescue operation. In addition, the purchase of the quad facilitated transport of the snow-making device.

The implemented project contributed to an increase in the company's income which is largely dependent on suitable snowmaking of the slope.

REGION:	POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	PRZYWIDZ
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	162 883,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	66 267,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	49 700,25 PLN



Diversification into non - agricultural activities



Modernisation of a musical instrument repair shop

The scope of the project

The purchase of equipment and tools for the manufacture of musical instruments.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary runs the business activity with regard to repair and maintenance of musical instruments. The shop specializes in removing defects and production of new components for the organ.

Description of the project

The main objective of the implemented project was equipping the shop with the machines useful for construction of the organ. The owner of the company bought a copying lathe and a belt grinder. These devices are used for precise treatment and shaping of the prepared products and for grinding their wooden components.

The shop also enlarged its equipment by a band saw which allows to cut wooden logs, glued blocks and boards.

As a result of the made investments, the activity of the shop has been extended by production of all components for construction of the organ.

REGION:	PODKARPACKIE
COMMUNE:	CHMIELNIK
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	106 030,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	37 180,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	27 885,00 PLN



Diversification into non - agricultural activities



Extension of the offer of a company dealing with metal work

The scope of the project

The purchase of machinery for metal work.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the spouse of the person who runs an agricultural holding. He owns a company specializing in artistic forging and metal work. He produces gateways, gates, balustrades, fences, furniture accessories as well as elements of stainless steel.

Description of the project

The beneficiary purchased a machine enabling production of items used in artistic forging. It is composed of a device for making baskets, embossing, hot forging and rolling, shaping as well as the gas forging furnace.

The use of modern equipment streamlined the production process and increased the capacity of the plant. The company has extended its offer by new products and services. The beneficiary completes orders regarding embossing wires and pipes, bending and forming bars into specific shapes and production of baskets.

The company has strengthened its position in the market and increased its sales. The modernised plant manufactures attractive products of high quality. The beneficiary has created two new jobs.

REGION:	PODKARPACKIE
COMMUNE:	LEŻAJSK
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	245 049,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	100 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	75 000,00 PLN



Diversification into non - agricultural activities



Starting production of timber products

The scope of the project

The purchase of a wood sawing machine.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the farmer who runs a holding with an area of 1,35 ha. Within the framework of the project, he started the service activity consisting in sawing logs into bunks, boards and rafters. His decision resulted from the growing demand for such products and services in the nearest neighbourhood. The beneficiary has the professional experience which has helped him start the business in this industry.

Description of the project

The investment regarded the purchase of a wood sawing machine i.e. bandsawing machine and a set for regeneration of saw blades. Wood sawing takes place using a bandsaw which, moving along a log, cuts off individual elements.

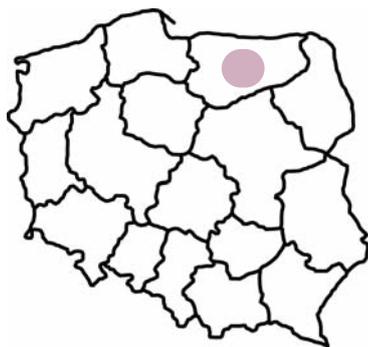
The bandsawing machine purchased within the framework of the project is a modern device for woodworking. It is equipped with a hydraulic loader that enables quick loading of logs with large diameters as well as log leveling system.

The bandsawing machine is mobile and allows to perform field services. The purchase of the set for regeneration of saw blades significantly lowers the costs of the operation of the bandsawing machine.

REGION:	MAZOWIECKIE
COMMUNE:	WISKITKI
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	95 391,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	39 095,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	29 321,25 PLN



Diversification into non - agricultural activities



Opening a physiotherapy centre

The scope of the project

Equipping the rehabilitation room, the purchase of equipment for physio - and hydrotherapy.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the farmer who runs a holding with an area of 25 ha, situated in a picturesque region in Mazury. Fresh air, silence, vicinity of forests and lakes favour the functioning of the centre and have a favourable impact on patients undergoing rehabilitation. In the building are twentythree accommodation places, two gymnastic rooms, kitchen and dining room. The centre is adapted to the needs of the disabled.



REGION:	WARMIŃSKO-MAZURSKIE
COMMUNE :	WĘGORZEWO
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	254 086,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	100 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	75 000,00 PLN

Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary purchased necessary rehabilitation equipment for physio - and hydrotherapy.

The facility is equipped with, inter alia, the magnetotherapy apparatus, the standing frame for rehabilitation of persons with paresis of lower limbs and trunk, apparatus for laser and ultra-sound therapy, lamp for colour therapy. Also, equipment for hydrotherapy was purchased including bathtubs, shower base, devices for water foot massage as well as specialist rehabilitation bed, mattresses, walking frames, ladders, balls, wheelchair, track, stepper and fitness bike.

The project implementation enabled adaptation of the beneficiary's infrastructure to the needs of the new activity. The result is the centre which specializes in treatment of patients suffering from, inter alia, paralysis and paresis due to nervous system injuries. The offer includes turns lasting one, two and three weeks during which patients make use of individual treatment programmes prepared by physicians and rehabilitators.

The beneficiary has created two new jobs. In addition, the centre cooperates with physicians and rehabilitators who are employed on the basis of order - agreement.



Diversification into non - agricultural activities



Development of a car disassembly station

The scope of the project

The purchase of a forklift and car crusher.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary runs a car centre which specializes, inter alia, in trade in spare parts as well as in disassembly of cars designed for scrapping. Secondary raw materials obtained in this way such as steel, rubber, glass and plastics are delivered to steelworks and processing plants.

Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary purchased a hydraulic press for crushing cars and a forklift. The hydraulic press is used to crush cars into flat blocks which, as secondary raw materials, are delivered to steelworks. Before being placed in the press, cars must be properly prepared. At the beginning, all oils and fluids: engine oil, washer fluid, brake fluid and liquid refrigerant are removed and sent to recovery plants.

Then, doors, bumpers, masks and flaps, wheels, engines, electrical installations, etc. are deinstalled. Some items, obtained in this way, are suitable for reuse. You can buy them directly in the plant. Other items are resold to companies dealing with recycling or disposal.

Cleaned bodies of cars are crushed by the press into flat blocks so it is easier to transport them to processing plants.

The implemented investment contributed to an increase in the company's income. By using new equipment, the plant could develop its activity related to disassembly of cars. In connection with modernisation of the company, two new employees have been employed.

REGION:	KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	BRODNICA
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	241 255,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	98 875,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	74 156,25 PLN



Diversification into non - agricultural activities



Modernisation of a plant producing elements of woodwork

The scope of the project

The purchase of equipment for production and assembly of woodwork.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the farmer running a holding of 11 ha. Due to the low profitability of the holding, he decided to start the non - agricultural business activity related to production, repair, maintenance and mechanical treatment of metal elements of woodwork such as balustrades, gateways, fences.

Description of the project

The plant has been equipped with tools for treatment of metal elements: bending machine, bar twisting machine and hydraulic press multiplying the pressing force.

Automation of the manufacturing process allowed to increase the quantity of manufactured products. Due to the possibility of precise determination and keeping of the parameters, the quality of offered products improved. Thanks to the use of modern devices, the offer of the plant has been enriched with new designs and types of products.



REGION:	KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	BRZOZIE
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	20 508,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	8 278,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	6 208,50 PLN

Diversification into non - agricultural activities



Starting production of kitchen furniture

The scope of the project

The purchase of machinery for production of furniture, delivery van and laptop.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the farmer who runs a holding with an area of 4 ha. In order to obtain additional income, he started up the business activity consisting in production and sales of kitchen furniture.

Description of the project

Within the framework of received co - financing, the beneficiary purchased machinery for the manufacture of furniture, including, inter alia, two circular saws for cutting wood, milling machine, drill/driver, router used for arch shaping of wood, sawdust and wood chip dust collector, edge bander, table drill and impact drill.

The purchased machinery and equipment made it possible to start large - scale production of furniture and to offer products at competitive prices (at least 10% lower than those of other producers).

The use of the purchased laptop facilitated plant management by, inter alia, ordering all needed raw materials via Internet. The purchase of the delivery van allows the beneficiary to transport raw materials and finished products.

REGION:	ŁÓDZKIE
COMMUNE:	DRZEWICA
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	185 382,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	72 577,50 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	54 433,12 PLN



Diversification into non - agricultural activities



Production of ice - cream

The scope of the project

The purchase of machinery and equipment for production of ice cream.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the farmer running a holding with an area of 30 ha. Within the framework of the project, he started the non - agricultural business activity consisting in production of ice - cream. The production technology is based on the recipe of the Dutch company, operating on a European scale, which patented the "Farm-house Ice - Cream" brand.

In 2007, using own funds, the beneficiary built a building with a total usable floor area of 58 m², meeting the hygiene - sanitary and veterinary requirements. Thanks to the granted subsidy, he purchased machinery and equipment for production of ice - cream and items of equipment of an ice - cream parlour. The plant has been equipped with a hand mixer, a machine for production of ice - cream, refrigerator and freezers. The purchased machinery and equipment form a complete technological line for production of ice cream up to 9 litres per hour which means 700 litres per month. Some raw materials for manufacture of ice - cream such as milk, fruit and vegetables (straw - berries, apples, wild cherries, cherries, tomatoes, cucumbers) come from the beneficiary's own holding.

The beneficiary was granted the right to use the name and logo of "Farmhouse Ice - Cream", as well as the possibility of selling exclusive products in the Toruń district. Ice - cream is sold to restaurants and to individual customers. The undertaking allowed to start the non - agricultural activity which is a source of additional income for the beneficiary.

REGION:	KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	CHEŁMŻA
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	135 849,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	54 732,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	41 049,00 PLN



Diversification into non - agricultural activities



The use of solar collectors in an agro - tourism holding

The scope of the project

The purchase of solar collectors and equipment for kitchen and garden.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary runs an agricultural holding with an area of approximately 6 ha. The additional income is derived from the agro - tourism activities. Within the framework of the project financed from SOP "Restructuring ...", she renovated the residential building, terrace and modernised the access roads and green areas.

The holding is situated in the vicinity of the spa towns of Busko Zdrój and Solec Zdrój. The Polish Federation of Rural Tourism awarded it with the 2nd category of quality. Tours are organized for tourists along surrounding routes, there is also a possibility to rent bicycles and sports equipment. The residential building has been adapted to the needs of guests. Guests have ten beds, kitchen and garden at their disposal.

Description of the project

In order to reduce the costs of the conducted activity, three solar collectors were mounted on the residential building. After analysis of the opinions of guests in the holding, the owner also decided to extend her offer by cooking services. Within the framework of the project, she purchased household appliances which facilitate cooking meals.

The holding offers regional cuisine and the owner is a winner of many cooking contests. She also purchased garden furniture and equipped rooms for guests with TV sets.

Installing the solar collectors reduced the costs of fuel and consumption of heat energy. The applied technology favours the protection of the environment, by reducing the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The result of the project is an increase in income from the conducted agro - tourism activity.



REGION:	ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE
COMMUNE:	BUSKO ZDRÓJ
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	79 402,52 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	22 832,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	17 124,00 PLN



Renovation and modernisation of a historical manor

The scope of the project

Renovation and modernisation of the floor of the building in order to create three bedrooms for guests and a living room.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary runs an agricultural holding with an area of nearly 4 ha. Since 2000, he has been the owner of a manor - park complex in the Lublin area. The manor is entered in the register of monuments and remains under the protection of the Lublin Regional Heritage Conservator. All year long, accommodation is provided in the facility. A small distance from willingly visited tourist destinations such as Lublin, Kazimierz Dolny, Nałęczów and Kozłówka increases the holding's attractiveness. In the past, the beneficiary benefited from the SAPARD and SOP "Restructuring..." programmes, under which he renovated the roof, kitchen, bathroom, dining room and lounge.

Description of the project

Due to the growing interest of customers, the owner of the manor decided to develop the accommodation infrastructure. Within the framework of the project, he reconstructed the floor to create three bedrooms with six additional accommodation places. Construction and finishing works were carried out in a manner which allowed to preserve the original style of the manor. New rooms were furnished with antiques, Louis XVI style furniture, as well as originals and copies of furniture from the 19th century, i.e. the period when the manor was built.

The implemented investment allowed the beneficiary to extend the offer of agro - tourism services. Thanks to the larger number of accommodation places, also organized groups may stay in the manor. The project has contributed to an increase in income from the conducted non - agricultural activity. For performing general renovation covering reconstruction of the roof and the adaptation of interiors for residential purposes, the owner of the manor was awarded with the "Laurel of the Regional Heritage Conservator" and "Silver badge for the care of monuments".

REGION:	LUBELSKIE
COMMUNE:	GARBÓW
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	220 642,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	100 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	75 000,00 PLN



Establishment and development of micro - enterprises

Characteristics of the measure

The aim of the measure is to support development of micro - enterprises existing in the rural areas and to stimulate the emergence of new operators whose activities shall contribute to the use of local resources and strengthen the rural areas in economic terms. The immediate effect of the measure is creation of new jobs and thereby an increase in employment in the rural areas.

Aid may be granted due to operations related to taking up or developing micro - enterprises operating with regard to:

- services for agricultural holdings or forestry;
- services for the population;
- wholesale and retail sale;
- craft or handicraft;
- construction and installation works and services;
- tourist services and services associated with sport, recreation and leisure;
- transport services;
- municipal services;
- processing of agricultural products or edible forest products;
- storage of goods;
- production of energy from biomass;
- accounting, consultancy or IT services.

Aid is granted in the form of reimbursement of partial eligible costs of operations. The maximum level of financial aid may be 50% of eligible costs. Aid is granted and paid up to the limit which in the period of the Programme implementation is maximum PLN 300 000 per one beneficiary, however:

- PLN 100 000 – if the economic plan of operations (business plan) provides for creation of at least 1 and less than 2 jobs,
- PLN 200 000 – if the economic plan of operations provides for creation of at least 2 and less than 3 jobs,
- PLN 300 000 – if the economic plan of operations provides for creation of at least 3 jobs.

By 31 December 2010, support was granted to 988 beneficiaries. Among the operations approved for the implementation, 33,1% regarded services for the population, 21,3% - construction and installation works and services, 8,9% - retail sale, 8,5% - tourist services and services associated with sport, recreation and leisure. More than 80% of signed agreements regard granting aid for already existing micro - enterprises. The remaining part of signed agreements regards newly established micro - enterprises.



Development of a bookbinding company

The scope of the project

The purchase of digital printing machines.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary runs the business activity, within the framework of which he offers bookbinding and IT services. He deals with, inter alia, production of calendars, leaflets, stickers and computerised typesetting. The company serves printing and publishing companies as well as individual customers.

Description of the project

Thanks to financial support, the beneficiary purchased a digital printing machine. The device enables printing multi - page materials such as brochures, books and catalogues. The machine is characterised by very high precision of performed digital prints and high performance amounting to 171 pages per minute. In addition, it consumes almost 30% less energy than other devices with similar technical parameters. In the past, the company dealt mainly with bookbinding and all works related to printing were outsourced. Currently, the company provides printing services by itself. Only few companies in Poland have the device with similar parameters.

In connection with the project implementation, 6 new employees have been employed. The new machine is operated by 5 of them while one is responsible for acquisition of customers.

REGION:	POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	STAROGARD GDAŃSKI
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	490 440,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	200 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	150 000,00 PLN





Development of a company producing trapezoidal sheet

The scope of the project

The purchase of a line for production of trapezoidal sheet.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the company that specializes in production of metal roofing tile and trapezoidal sheet and sale of roofings, roof windows and mineral wool. It has been present in the market since 2000. Manufactured products are used for construction of roof decking for commercial buildings.

Description of the project

Thanks to financial support, the plant activated two lines for production of T-35 and T-18 trapezoidal sheet. The company is one of few producers of T-18 trapezoidal sheet with double crease. This innovative solution improves the rigidity of a metal sheet and improves its aesthetic appearance. The purchased lines for production of sheet are fully automated, they are operated by one employee. They are also characterised by high performance of 30 m/min.



The implementation of the investment extended the company's range of products by new types of trapezoidal sheet. It helped increase the scale of production while reducing the price of products by 15% - 20%. The use of the modern technology resulted in the quality of products comparable to the offer of international manufacturers. Also, 5 new jobs were created, four persons were employed in the production line while one is responsible for marketing and promotion of new products.

REGION:	KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	GOLUB-DOBRZYŃ
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	707 600,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	290 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	217 500,00 PLN



Development of a sport and recreation company

The scope of the project

The purchase of a luxury yacht.

Beneficiary

Since November 2005, the beneficiary has been running the sport and recreation activity. He deals with organizing voyages, sailing camps, rental of yachts and boatbuilding services.

Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary purchased a luxury yacht with a design characteristic of sea yachts which may be used by up to 10 persons. The sailing boat with a length of 8,7 m has 3 separate sleeping cabins, WC, refrigerator, the installation of drinking water and raw water and the electrical installation.



Yachts of this type are rare to be seen in the Mazury Lakes. Thanks to such amenities as closed cabins and the heating system, they may be used during the off - season, up to 210 days a year in total.

The purchase of the yacht contributed to development of the company's activity by acquiring a new group of customers, oriented towards the higher standard service. In connection with the extension of the offer, the beneficiary employed a new employee.



REGION:	WARMIŃSKO-MAZURSKIE
COMMUNE:	STAWIGUDA
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	219 600,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	90 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	67 500,00 PLN



Opening a restaurant

The scope of the project

The purchase of equipment for a restaurant.

Beneficiary

Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary opened a pizza parlour. It is located in the region frequently visited by tourists, very close to the sea. In addition to pizza, the restaurant serves also pastas, fish dishes, meat dishes and starters.

Description of the project

Thanks to financial support, the beneficiary equipped the kitchen with a freezer, refrigerator, oven and cookers and the restaurant part of the pizza parlour – with tables and armchairs, he also developed the bar. In addition, he purchased an isothermal van. The restaurant managed by the beneficiary, as one of few in the nearest neighbourhood, is open throughout the year and not only in the summer. It also offers a possibility to order pizza by telephone. The service is available across the entire commune.

The implementation of the project allowed to create new jobs. One permanent employer has been employed in the pizza parlour while additional persons are employed during the summer season.

REGION:	ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	REWAL
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	230 878,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	94 622,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	70 854,00 PLN





Development of a company renting equipment for production of films and commercials

The scope of the project

The purchase of technical equipment for production of films and commercials.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary runs the business activity consisting in providing services with regard to rental of equipment for production of films and commercials.

Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, professional film and television equipment was purchased, inter alia, 2 digital cameras, HD camera, 2 stereo microphones, dynamic microphone, camera stabilization system, 4 monitors "24", decoder, 2 stage monitors and 2 computers with suitable software. The owner of the company also purchased a lorry.

The implementation of the investment allowed to start the service activity. Modern equipment being at the disposal of the rental company has high technical parameters thanks to which the company's offer is competitive. The lorry allows to deliver equipment directly to the customer. Thanks to the undertaking, a new job was created. The company employed an employee who deals with acquisition and service of customers.

REGION:	WARMIŃSKO-MAZURSKIE
COMMUNE:	STAWIGUDA
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	221 371,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	87 149,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	65 361,75 PLN





Opening a beauty parlour

The scope of the project

The purchase of equipment for a beauty parlour.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is a natural person starting the business activity in the field of hairdressing and beauty services. Receiving financial support allowed to purchase equipment for the beauty parlour.

Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary equipped the parlour with the hair washer with the head massage function, hairdressing utensils, hair shavers, hairdressing armchairs, hairdresser's helmet, hair regeneration steamer and solarium bed. The beneficiary provides professional hair care and styling services: washing, cutting, styling, dying and regeneration. In addition, in the parlour there is a possibility to make use of the solarium as well as of make - up services for different occasions.

Thanks to the implementation of the undertaking, one new job was created.



REGION:	POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	BOBOWO
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	96 835,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	39 686,50 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	29 764,87 PLN





Extension of the manufacturing base of a company producing handles and helves for garden tools

The scope of the project

The purchase of woodcutting and woodworking machinery.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the owner of a family company dealing with production of wooden handles and helves for garden tools.

Description of the project

Within the framework of the investment, the beneficiary purchased a copying band saw and automatic copying lathe. Thanks to the new machines, the plant started production of profiled handles. In the local market, production of this type is of innovative nature. In addition, the demand for profiled handles is much greater than for straight ones. The beneficiary manufactures products according to the specified form. Using the band saw, repetitive arch - shaped elements are cut out of the boards of suitable dimensions.

Then, they are dried in a container drying device according to the appropriate programme. The final product is a result of the simultaneous process of turning and grinding by means of the copying lathe.

The implementation of the project allowed to extend the offer of the plant which in the past offered straight handles only. As a result of the use of modern equipment, the capacity of the plant increased. In addition, the manufacturing cycle has been shortened. The owner of the plant became a manufacturer of high - quality precisely made products which comply with the standards in terms of their size, shape, adequate humidity and surface quality. Thanks to the investments, three new jobs have been created.



REGION:	KUJAWSKO-POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	CEKCYN
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	314 069,58 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	128 717,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	96 537,75 PLN

Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production

Characteristics of the measure

The aim is to improve the competitiveness of enterprises in the processing sector and to improve marketing of agricultural products. Investments implemented in enterprises should contribute to the improvement of the production quality while reducing its costs.

Aid is granted for the implementation of projects related to modernisation or construction of agricultural products processing plants or infrastructure of wholesale trade in agricultural products. Support concerns investments aimed at improving the overall performance of enterprises, environmental conditions and, in case of micro - enterprises, adapting to newly introduced community standards.

The beneficiary can be a natural person, legal person or non - corporate entity which:

- has a registered business activity with regard to processing and marketing of agricultural products;
- acts as an entrepreneur conducting a small or medium - sized enterprise or an enterprise which employs less than 750 employees or an enterprise whose turnover does not exceed the PLN equivalent of EUR 200 million.

The maximum level of aid granted under this measure is from 25 to 50% of the costs of an investment eligible for support, depending on fulfillment of certain additional requirements by the beneficiary. The maximum amount of aid granted to one beneficiary during the implementation of RDP is equal to PLN 20 000 000. The amount of aid granted for the implementation of one project may not be lower than PLN 100 000.

In the first period of the Programme implementation, the possibility of benefiting from aid was restrained for beneficiaries of the measure "Improvement of processing and marketing of agricultural products" implemented under the Sectoral Operational Programme "Restructuring and modernisation of the food sector and rural development 2004-2006"

By 31 December 2010, 923 agreements for granting aid were signed, of which 594 regarded processing food products, 137 - wholesale sale and 61 – processing non - food products. On a basis of signed agreements, primarily small and medium - sized enterprises will benefit from support. By 31 December 2010, funds were paid to 385 companies which implemented 422 operations. Of that, 255 operations were completed. Within the framework of the implemented operations were related to introduction of new products, processes and production technologies.

Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production



Modernisation of a fruit and vegetable processing plant

The scope of the project

Construction of a cold store building and the purchase of a technological line for processing and freezing fruit and vegetables.

Beneficiary

The company conducts the business activity with regard to processing and wholesale sale of fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables. It has a dozen or so buying stations of raw materials. The enterprise purchases raw materials directly from agricultural producers which allows for obtaining competitive prices. Customers are Polish and foreign companies cooperating with the beneficiary for many years.

Description of the project

The investment included construction of a cold store which consists of a production and warehouse hall and rest and refreshment facilities. Within the framework of the project, the electrical and cooling systems were also installed.

The new building was equipped with devices used in the process of preparing fruit and vegetables for freezing. The purchased devices were: devices for washing and rinsing raw materials, device for impregnating button mushrooms, drying machines, cherry stoners, cutter, freezing tunnel, carton sealer and machine sorting raw materials by size.



Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production

Construction of the cold store allowed for extension of the activity by production of frozen products. In the past, that activity was outsourced, against payment, to other processing plants and the beneficiary dealt with sale of ready - made frozen products. Thanks to creating the conditions for rapid freezing of fruit and vegetables in the modernised plant, losses related to spoilage of raw materials were reduced.

During the process of preparing for freezing, the company obtains cherry juice which is sold to manufacturers of concentrates. In turn, cherry stones which are left as a result of stoning are sold to companies producing pillows and mattresses for hospitals.

Construction of the modern processing and freezing plant and the purchase of specialized equipment ensured the high quality of products.

REGION:	MAZOWIECKIE
COMMUNE:	WARSZAWA-OCHOTA
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	490 440,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	200 000,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	150 000,00 PLN



Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production



Opening a modern rapeseed processing plant

The scope of the project

Construction of the oil extraction facility, the purchase of a technological line for oil extraction and truck tractor with semi - trailer.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the company dealing with sale of artificial fertilizers, plant protection products, feeds, seed material of cereals and rape, agricultural machinery and gardening articles. It also deals with buying agricultural products. The company has its own warehouses, storage yards and means of transport. The company shareholders have agricultural holdings with a total area of 900 ha, aimed at production of rape seeds. The beneficiary is a member of the Opole Rape Producer Group Sp. z o.o., which produces 3.7 thousand tons of seeds of this plant per year. Previously, the beneficiary benefited from aid in a form of investment loans with bank interest subsidies and working capital loans for buying agricultural products. Under the SAPARD programme, it has modernised the feed manufacturing plant and from the PHARE 2001 investment subsidy fund purchased a weighing and packing line for fertilizers.

Description of the project

Thanks to another subsidy, the modern plant with the oil extraction line with the total capacity of 22 000 tons per year has been constructed. As a result of processing rape seeds, raw rapeseed oil and extruded rape cake, being a by - product of the extraction process, are obtained. Rapeseed oil is sold to plants dealing with further processing of oil for food and feed purposes as well as to producers of biofuels. Rape cake is sold by the company as a component of feeds. Customers of the plant are large agricultural holdings and companies trading in feed raw materials. Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary also purchased a truck tractor with semi - trailer which is used to transport raw materials. The implemented investment extended the company's offer by oil and feeds for cattle. In addition, five new jobs were created.

REGION:	OPOLSKIE
COMMUNE:	UJAZD
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	4 598 705,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	2 084 867,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	1 563 650,25 PLN



Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production



Modernisation of technological processes in a dairy cooperative

The scope of the project

The purchase of the microfiltration system, cooling system and automatic product packing and palletizing system.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is a dairy cooperative which specializes in production of cottage cheese and a wide range of cream types. Since 2000, the cooperative has had the export license allowing it to sell goods to the EU countries. The entire milk processing process is fully automated. This allows for obtaining products of the superior quality and high microbiological purity. In production of milk, the pasteurization method is used which, in contrast to the UHT sterilization method, allows to maintain its natural taste and most nutritional values. The cooperative benefited from SAPARD aid as well as from SOP "Restructuring...". Under those programs, it purchased the means of transport for transporting milk and equipment for its processing.

Description of the project

In order to increase the potential of the plant and its competitiveness, it was decided to take another undertaking related to technological improvement of production processes.

As part of the investment, the plant has been equipped with the milk microfiltration system which allows for obtaining the desired chemical composition of milk, regardless of the content of protein in bought raw materials. The most important element of the system is the membranes thanks to which the liquid is separated into two streams. The difference in pressures makes the components smaller than the membrane pores go through it. Under the influence of pressure, mineral salts and water are pumped out of milk. Thanks to the microfiltration system, it is possible to obtain the constant content of protein in milk designed for further technological processes.



REGION:	PODLASKIE
COMMUNE:	PIĄTNICA
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	22 453 076,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	5 271 842,25 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	3 953 881,68 PLN

Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production

The cooperative has also purchased the automatic packing and palletizing machines. The advantage of introducing the system is shortening the packing and palletizing process which so far has been performed by manual adjustment of the machine parameters. The newly purchased tray packing machines produce trays for packing by themselves. The automatic packing machine packs products in the trays and then the robot puts the stacked trays, i.e. trays arranged on one another, onto the pallets. The packing machine disinfects the packages and provides sterilization of the packing area.

The more smooth production reduced stoppages associated with readjusting the packing machine's parameters depending on the type of the product range. The plant was also equipped with the tunnel cooling system which enables additional cooling of products in a continuous way during production, i.e. cooling of products down from the input temperature of 20 - 300°C to the output temperature of 60°C. The implemented undertaking improved the quality of manufactured products and the manufacturing process has become less harmful to the environment.



Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production



The purchase of a technological line for feed production

The scope of the project

The purchase and installation of machinery and equipment for production of feed and of the means of transport.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the company which is an important domestic producer of meat and poultry products. The structure of the company includes: poultry plants, hatcheries, company stores and feed manufacturing plant. Such organization allows the company to have full control of production at all its stages. The plants forming a part of the company operate in accordance with the hygiene and health requirements valid in the European Union. The beneficiary has already benefited from a subsidy under SOP "Restructuring ..." thanks to which it purchased hatchery equipment, machinery and equipment for processing poultry, modernised the manufacturing plant, developed the cooling and ventilation systems. The subsidies made under RDP 2007-2013 are a continuation of the activities related to development of the feed manufacturing plant.



Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary launched a second line for production of feed for poultry. After laboratory analysis, the raw material is dried and stored in suitable containers. Then, the raw material is transported to special dosing tanks where in accordance with the adopted formula individual components are dosed on the weighing scales. In case of cereals, they are additionally subject to the process of grinding in order to obtain a fully homogeneous structure. The ground raw material goes to the main mixer where liquid additives, such as amino acids and fats, are dosed. From the main mixer, the raw material goes to the granulation line where it is formed into granules. One of the most important stages of granulation is the hygienisation process whose result is the product with a very high level of biosecurity. After granulation, finished feed is stored in shipping chambers in bulk or goes to the bagging line where it is packed in bags and stored.

REGION:	MAZOWIECKIE
COMMUNE:	CIECHANÓW
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	24 167 062,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	5 061 269,50 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	176 400,25 PLN

Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production



Within the framework of the project, the vehicle scales, six truck tractors, five vehicles to transport feed and a vehicle for transporting liquid products have also been purchased. Thanks to the investment, the plant doubled production of feed and thus the company became independent of external suppliers. In connection with launching the manufacturing line, twenty - four new employees were employed.



Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production



Development of the production hall of a fruit and vegetable processing plant

The scope of the project

Development of the production hall and the purchase of machinery and equipment.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the company engaged in processing and wholesale sale of fruit and vegetables. Iceberg lettuce, onions, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, spinach, chicory are mainly processed.

In addition, the company is a supplier of apples to restaurants. The beneficiary has already benefited from a subsidy of the SAPARD programme under which it reconstructed the production rooms, installed a water treatment system, installed a sewerage system, electrical system and also built a sanitary room.

Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary developed the production hall by equipping it with the cooling systems and chambers for storing apples and tomatoes. In addition, it purchased a manufacturing line for processing lettuce with a capacity of 1 500 kg per hour. The line consists of a three - level table with twelve workstations where the upper conveyor is intended for receiving a semi - product and the central one for transporting the raw material. At this level, there are installed working tables for removing waste parts from vegetables as well as chimneys for production waste transferred to the lower level and then transported to a separate storage place.

The line also includes the lettuce washing and drying systems. The washers, designed specially for cleaning leaf vegetables, guarantee an excellent effect of washing.

REGION:	MAZOWIECKIE
COMMUNE:	ZAKROCZYM
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	3 354 381,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	1 167 448,80 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	875 586,60 PLN



Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production

Thanks to co - financing, the plant has also purchased a weighing and packing line for various types of cut leaf vegetables. The multi - head combination scales weighs vegetables with great accuracy which reduced previous losses due to overweighing of products. Application of the automatic packing system additionally improves the appearance and provides the greater durability of the product by maintaining the adequate level of protection gases in each package.

The implemented investment streamlined the manufacturing process in the processing plant, increased its capacity and affected the rise in the quality of processed products.



Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production



Modernisation of a plant specializing in production of juices

The scope of the project

The purchase of machinery for filtration and analysis of the juice composition, facilities for unloading of fruit and hydraulic press for extracting juice.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the leading producer of concentrated fruit juices, natural flavours of dried fruit. Favourable natural conditions and the location of the plant in the ecologically pure regions allow for maintaining the high quality of offered products.

Description of the project

Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary purchased a rotary car dumper i.e. a machine used for unloading of fruit from vehicles. The device is adjusted to various types of delivery vans. The central element is a platform on which the vehicles enter. The vehicles are tilted at an angle which enables free dumping of fruit.

The beneficiary also purchased a hydraulic basket press which is used for extracting juice from fruit. The cylinder is filled with fruit pulp, from which, by means of the hydraulic piston, juice is extracted. The device is fully computerised. The user sets the crushing programme appropriate for each type of fruit. He may adjust such parameters as the duration of crushing or pressing force. The hydraulic pressing system is air - tight. This ensures the purity of juice and minimizes its oxidation.

REGION:	MAŁOPOLSKIE
COMMUNE:	ŻEGOCINA
TOTAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT:	5 077 219,00 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING:	1 756 848,80 PLN
AMOUNT OF CO-FINANCING UNDER EAFRD:	1 317 636,60 PLN



Increasing the added value to basic agricultural and forestry production

Within the framework of the investment, the plant has been equipped with a vacuum filter which is used for removing solid parts of fruit from juices. It consists of a drum that is covered with filtration fabric, filtration tank with accessories and pumps. The drum covered with the filtration layer rotates inside the tank filled with juice. As a result of vacuum generated inside the drum, juice infiltrates to the inside from where it goes to further processing. All solid parts of fruit are stopped by the filtration layer on the external part of the drum. Installing a new filter improved the performance of the entire manufacturing line because it reduces the work of the so - called membrane filter i.e. the device for final filtration of juice. Previously at that stage solid parts of fruit were separated.

The purchased plate filter is a device for so - called microfiltration i.e. purification of juices from bacteria. It consists of a body of stainless steel, filtration plates and feed pump. The filtration plates are placed next to each other inside the body of the machine and then, using the pump, juice is passed through them. This filtration method allows for obtaining juices of the high microbiological purity. Previously, the beneficiary could monitor the level of bacteria in juices only when it ordered external laboratories to perform microbiological analyses. Currently, all juices produced by the plant are purified from bacteria in an automatic way.

The beneficiary also purchased a chromatograph i.e. a laboratory device for analysis of the chemical composition of produced juices. Thanks to this device, the beneficiary may assess whether its products meet all the quality requirements set by contractors.

The project implementation contributed to increasing the capacity of the plant while reducing the manufacturing costs. The use of devices such as the chromatograph and plate filter helped to raise the standards with regard to the product quality.



Agri - environmental payments

Characteristics of the measure

The subsidies under the agri - environmental payments are to compensate farmers for loss of income which they would gain using the agricultural methods contributing to the environmental degradation. This refers to, inter alia, the use of artificial fertilizers and plant protection products as well as draining of periodically partially inundated agricultural land. The subsidies may be applied for by farmers using meadows and pastures in an extensive manner and those who will choose to use organic methods in conducting the holding. Co - financing is also granted to farmers who decide to breed traditional, native breeds of farm animals such as Polish primitive horses, Polish Red Cattle, Green Leg hens or Żłotnicka or Puławska pigs. Money from RDP 2007-2013 also helps to maintain traditional Polish crops such as emmer wheat, millet, traditional varieties of apple trees such as: ananas bierzeńicki, reneta karmelicka as well as pear trees: bera boska, paryżanka and plum trees - e.g. węgierka łowicka.

The measure covers 9 agri - environmental packages:

- Package 1. Sustainable agriculture;
- Package 2. Organic agriculture;
- Package 3. Extensive permanent grassland;
- Package 4. Protection of endangered bird species and natural habitats outside the NATURA 2000 areas;
- Package 5. Protection of endangered bird species and natural habitats within the NATURA 2000 areas;
- Package 6. Preservation of endangered plant genetic resources in agriculture;
- Package 7. Preservation of endangered animal genetic resources in agriculture;
- Package 8. Protection of soil and water;
- Package 9. Buffer zones.

Each package contains agri - environmental variants which include sets of tasks going beyond the valid basic requirements to be met by beneficiaries of e.g. direct payments.

As far as the amount of aid is concerned, the agri - environmental payments are determined per hectare of the area, head of the farm animal or running metre of the buffer zone. This is the payment which shall be paid in a form of a lump - sum payment and is compensation for the lost income and additional costs incurred.

According to the data as of 31 December 2010, 31% of beneficiaries implemented Organic agriculture Package, 19,8% - Extensive permanent grassland Package, 19,4% - Sustainable agriculture Package, and 19% - Protection of soil and water Package.

Agri - environmental payments



The agri - environmental programme in peatlands

The scope of the project

The implementation of the agri - environmental programme in valuable natural habitats within the framework of the packages concerning extensive management of meadows and pastures and the protection of endangered bird species and natural habitats outside the NATURA 2000 areas in transitional peatlands.

Beneficiary

The farmer runs a holding with an area of nearly 30 ha which is located in the less - favoured areas (LFA). He specializes in breeding swine. He has a herd of 90 pigs. Live animals are sold to individual users and agents cooperating with slaughterhouses. The farmer grows wheat, rye and potatoes which are used as feed for bred animals.

Description of the project

The aim of the agri - environmental programme in the territory of the holding is to protect the breeding grounds of birds, inter alia, Northern lap - wing, Montagu's Harrier and corncrake as well as natural sites of peat mosses, bog bilberry and common heather.

The holding receives co - financing within two packages:

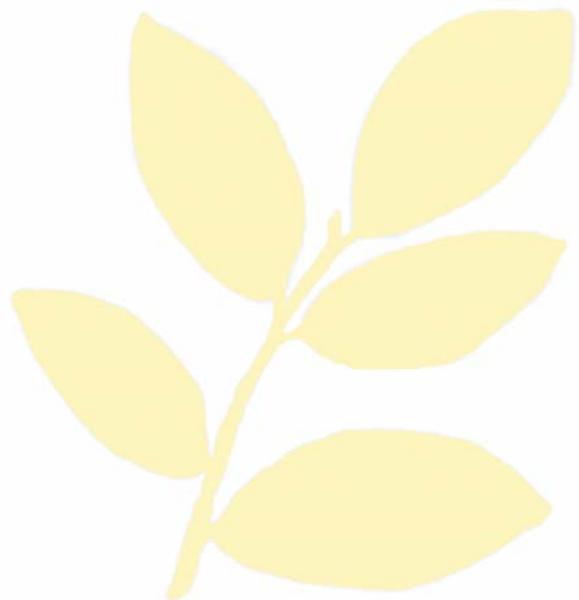
- Package 3 – Extensive permanent grassland – implemented on meadows and pastures occupying the area of almost 3 ha. In this area, artificial fertilization and chemical protection of plants were discontinued. The beneficiary may not perform more than two mowings a year. This creates favourable living conditions for many pasture plants, invertebrates and nesting birds. About 5 -15% of the plot remain unmowed which enables natural regeneration of the plants.



REGION:	POMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	LINIEWO
THE VALUE OF PAYMENTS MADE SO FAR:	7 605,00 PLN
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED SINCE 2008	

Agri - environmental payments

- Package 4 – Protection of endangered bird species and natural habitats outside the NATURA 2000 areas – implemented in the areas not suitable for management, mowing and grazing. These are mainly peatlands and boggy areas which occupy almost 3 ha. In this area, there is an absolute ban on ploughing, using pesticides and building new drainage systems. The beneficiary is obliged to preserve their natural character in order to guarantee relevant conditions to birds occurring in these areas.



Agri - environmental payments



The agri - environmental programme in an experimental station of the national research institute of animal production

The scope of the project

The implementation of the agri - environmental programme within the framework of the packages concerning extensive management of meadows and pastures, the protection of endangered bird species and natural habitats as well as preservation of endangered animal genetic resources.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary conducts the agricultural and agro - tourism activity in the area of 1,5 thousand ha, of which approximately 770 ha are permanent grassland, including 400 ha covered by the agri - environmental programme. On 420 ha of arable land, maize, cereals and rape are cultivated.

The plant also deals with the breeding of cattle, horses and goats. It has nearly 1,000 heads of Simmental cattle and 100 heads of Hereford cattle. It also conducts the activity related to preservation of traditional animal breeds which is covered by the agri - environmental programme. Since 1987, the beneficiary has been breeding Hucul Ponies which are used for recreational, training and therapeutic purposes. The holding has a herd of 110 horses and offers horse - riding lessons, horse rides and sleigh rides. Twice a year, those who are interested may participate in several days' transhumance of cattle and horses into mountain pastures. The plant also makes efforts to reconstitute the old Polish breed – Carpathian goat. Currently, it has around 40 heads.



Agri - environmental payments

Description of the project

In implementing the agri - environmental programme, the beneficiary is engaged in breeding the dying breed of Hucul Ponies, by using feed from natural permanent grassland without excessive interference in the natural environment. The breeding does not pose any problem and it even helps to protect corncrakes in the area of almost 200 ha.



The holding benefits from the subsidies under the following packages:

- Package 3 – Extensive permanent grassland implemented in the area of about 270 ha. These are mainly meadows and pastures where animals are grazed. In this area, artificial fertilization and chemical protection of plants were discontinued. The beneficiary also applies so - called delayed mowing which enables natural regeneration of plants. 5 to 10% of grass remain unmowed until very late autumn and even early spring of the next year.
- Package 4 – Protection of endangered bird species and natural habitats outside the NATURA 2000 areas - implemented in the area of about 150 ha. In these areas, the beneficiary maintains the meadow landscape which favours the protection of birds occurring there.
- Package 7 – Preservation of endangered animal genetic resources in agriculture. As part of this package, the beneficiary breeds Hucul Ponies. This breed originates from the Eastern Carpathians and is one of the oldest breeds known in Poland.

REGION:	PODKARPACKIE
COMMUNE:	ZARSZYN
THE VALUE OF PAYMENTS	
MADE SO FAR:	1 611 178,40 PLN
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED SINCE 2005	



Agri - environmental payments



The agri - environmental programme in an agro - tourism holding

The scope of the project

The implementation of the agri - environmental programme within the framework of the packets concerning organic agriculture and extensive maintenance of pastures.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary conducts a horse stud and agro-tourism holding. Almost 18 ha of its area are pastures. The remaining 23 hectares are forests, pools and fallow land. The offer of the holding includes accommodation, food and horse riding. In total, the owner has 26 horses, mainly Trakehners. He teaches horse riding, organizes recreational trips as well as trainings on breeding and training horses.

Description of the project

The implementation of the agri - environmental programme allows for protection of land against water erosion.

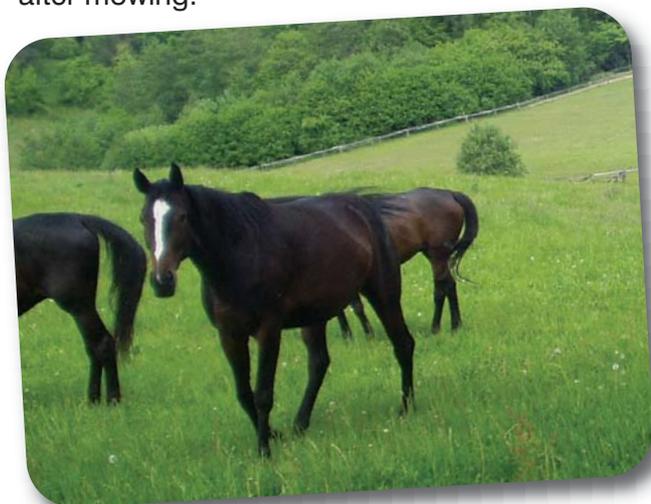
The area of the holding is not uniform in topographic terms – there are large hills, ravines, gorges as well as ponds and pools. Previously, when the beneficiary was engaged in cultivation of cereals in those areas, ecological damages tended to occur. Water flowing down the fields contributed to soil erosion. After converting the holding into the agro - tourism one, grass and Fabaceae plants such as clover and alfalfa, covered by co - financing from the agri - environmental programme, were sowed in the areas previously occupied by crops. The choice of such plants eliminated the problem of soil leaching.



Agri - environmental payments

The holding benefits from the subsidies under the following packages:

- Package 3 – Extensive permanent grassland – is implemented in the area of nearly 18 ha. In the areas covered by the package, the beneficiary is obliged to discontinue active soil cultivation. Therefore, this area is covered by turf composed of grass and Fabaceae plants. In this area, artificial fertilization and chemical protection of plants were discontinued. The beneficiary may not perform more than two mowings a year. He also leaves about 5 -15% of the plot unmowed which enables natural regeneration of the plants.
- Package 2 – Organic agriculture - implemented on meadows and pastures occupying the area around 18 ha. The areas covered by this package are coincident with the area where Package 3 is implemented. The beneficiary possesses a certificate of conformity with regard to organic agriculture. The areas covered by the package occupy meadows. Mowed grass is used as feed for animals. Only organic fertilizers are used. This allows for preservation of the purity of soil and groundwater and favours biodiversity of the holding's areas. The beneficiary is obliged to remove or stack up cut down biomass within no more than 2 weeks after mowing.



The abundance of fauna and flora, lakes, forests and the vicinity of the Drawieński National Park makes the agro - tourism activity conducted by the beneficiary more attractive. In 2009, the holding occupied the third place in the regional Agro - Eco Tourism contest "Green Summer".

REGION:	ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE
COMMUNE:	TUCZNO
THE VALUE OF PAYMENTS MADE SO FAR:	83 378,70 PLN
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED SINCE 2004	



Agri - environmental payments



The agri - environmental programme in a holding breeding Jersey cattle

The scope of the project

The implementation of the agri - environmental programme within the framework of the packages concerning organic agriculture and the extensive use of meadows and pastures.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is a retired person conducting an agricultural holding with an area of nearly 15 ha. He has four heads of Jersey cattle used for milk production and for reproductive purposes. Milk and calves born in the holding are sold to local people. The beneficiary has also two Polish primitive horses which are used for recreational purposes. He hires them out to groups preparing battle enactments and for the purposes of sleigh rides organized in the commune.

Description of the project

The agri - environmental programme implemented by the beneficiary allows for protection of wild orchid sites occurring in boggy meadows and breeding grounds of birds such as common snipes and corncrakes.

The holding benefits from the subsidies under the following packages:

- Package 2 – Organic agriculture – implemented on meadows and pastures occupying the area of around 10,2 ha. The beneficiary possesses a certificate of conformity with regard to organic agriculture. Only organic fertilizers are used in these areas. This allows for preserving the purity of soil and groundwater and favours biodiversity of the holding's areas. The beneficiary is obliged to remove or stack up cut down biomass within no more than 2 weeks after mowing.



Agri - environmental payments

- Package 3 – Extensive permanent grassland – is implemented in the area of 0,5 ha. This area is designed for grazing animals and for mowing. It is not fertilized with artificial fertilizers, no chemical plant protection products are used there. The beneficiary may not perform more than two mowings a year. He also leaves about 5-15% of the plot unmowed which enables natural regeneration of the plants.
- Package 5 – Protection of endangered bird species and natural habitats within the NATURA 2000 areas – is implemented in the area of nearly 11 ha and partially coincides with the area covered by Packages 2 and 3. These are mainly boggy meadows where valuable natural wild orchid sites and breeding grounds of birds such as common snipes and corncrakes occur. In this area, there is an absolute ban on ploughing, using pesticides and building new drainage systems.

The animals bred in the holding pose a very little threat to preservation of the natural environment. The Jersey cows and Polish primitive horses are, when compared to other breeds, very lightweight. While grazing, they trample down plants growing on pastures to a lesser extent. When mowing, in order to protect various species of animals, the beneficiary uses a mower with a short mowing arm. Thanks to it, animals have a greater chance of escape and are not killed during mowing.

In the areas of the holding, there is abundance of natural herbs and other plants such as Hypericum, Menyanthes trifoliata, Western marsh orchid, early marsh orchid, heath spotted orchid, marsh helleborine, european common twayblade and purple marshlocks. As a result of the above average biodiversity of pastures, the cows owned by the beneficiary are able to produce milk with a high level of dienes of linoleic acid which have anti - cancer properties. In 2009, the holding occupied the second place at the regional stage of the nation - wide contest "The best organic holding" in the ecology - environment category.

REGION: ZACHODNIOPOMORSKIE
COMMUNE: WAŁCZ
THE VALUE OF PAYMENTS MADE SO FAR: 77 138,46 PLN
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED SINCE 2004



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The catalogue of good practices of beneficiaries of RDP for 2007–2013 is a set of interesting and inspiring projects implemented under the EU Rural Development Programme. The handbook contains descriptions of investments for which farmers and entrepreneurs received co-financing and shows the effects for development of a holding or company that have been brought by these projects.

This publication also contains the information on the extent to which and the conditions under which the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture grants financial support under RDP 2007–2013 and who can receive it.