

Viability of small farms managed by young farmers under new "farm-to-fork" strategy (2020-1-CZ01-KA203-078495)



BARTOSZ KORNACKI

Combined crop and livestock farm from Lodz voideship.

Identification details

Name: Bartosz Kornacki

Location: Annopole Nowe, Łódzkie voivodeship, Poland

Farm size: 70 ha (4 owned)

Year of foundation: 2014

Main activities: cattle, maize

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Farm is managed by 28-year-old man, who completed the secondary technical school. He started the agricultural activity in 2014 when he bought his own agricultural land. He says he likes this job and it was his incentive motivation to start agricultural activity. The utilized agricultural area (UAA) of the farm is 70 ha, however only 4 ha UAA is owned by the farm manager. Most of the area is leased. Beef cattle production is the main specialization of the farm. Cattle stock include 80 units. Maize is grown on the area of 40 ha UAA to provide animal fodder. In his agricultural activity he undertook various production, e.g. the production of starch potatoes, contracted directly with a processing plant. Unfortunately, high seed potato prices and difficulties in obtaining the right price with the contractor forced him to discontinue this production.

The farmer is not a member of any agricultural producers' group or organization and does business by himself. But he offers maize sowing services and harvesting machinery.

He realizes that scale of production can give the farm stronger position in the value chain and advantage over the competitors resulting in satisfactory income level. That is why he is going to develop the production. In the farm development perspective, production diversification will be an income stabilisation solution. The farmer intends to develop vegetable cultivation (cabbages and potatoes) together with direct sales from the farm. The current challenge for the farm is the formal restrictions blocking the use of investment funds. A big barrier to overcome will be the availability of agricultural land at high prices of land.

The higher scale of production needs relevant machine park. Hence, the farmer has already purchased some agricultural machinery necessary for production. He also visited foreign farms to gain some professional experience. The field trip was financed from the European Union funds. has benefited from subsidies from the programme suporting young farmer. The current policy of the farm is to use the passion for mechanisation of agriculture. The farmer buys machinery from his own funds - these are mainly purchases of second-hand equipment from Western Europe, then renovated and adapted to the specialisation of the farm. This gives the farmer the advantage of not using credits.

Apart from farming, the farmer is involved in social activities and is a member of the volunteer fire brigade.

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Photos:





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