

MARTA DOMAGALA

farm with diversified income sources including organic production

Identification details

Name: Marta Domagala

Location: Szydłów, Łódzkie voivodeship, Poland

Farm size: 1 ha

Year of foundation: 2021

Main activities: cereals

Web / Facebook / Twitter: N/A

Farm is managed by 24-year-old woman, who is a holder of the MSc degree in Agriculture, graduate of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences. She started the agricultural activity in 2021 when she bought her own agricultural land. Her farm is very small and counts only 6 ha UAA. At the very beginning the entire area was under the cereals production. She started running agricultural activity because she wanted to start her own business and apply for support under the "Setting up of young farmers" measure of the Rural Development Programme. The CAP funds helped a lot in setting up the farm, de facto made it possible. Otherwise, she would not have undertaken agriculture. The business plan based on organic production, e.g. organic feed like buckwheat, lupin. She is also willing to grow sunflowers for flower which is quite profitable cultivation.

As she is just starting her agricultural activity, she looks for the numerous possibilities to improve her knowledge and skills. So far she has participated in trainings related to e.g., fertilisation plan, using plant protection products with sprayers or non-agricultural activities. Courses and training in small-scale processing and direct selling are of particular benefit, as they provide a better understanding of the benefits of short chains. She expands her knowledge by studying finance and accounting. She realizes that the continuous improvement of skills is of key importance to successful activity in agriculture. The scale of production on her farm is very small and it is necessary to find a specific advantage of the farm, which will help develop a stable position in the supply chain. She uses agricultural services because at this stage it is more profitable, but eventually she plans to buy her own machinery if there is an opportunity to obtain favourable funding. If farm modernisation support will be available she will use the chance to buy tractor and basic machinery. In order to reach this aim and have relatively satisfactory income despite the small area of farm, she now converts the farm from conventional to organic production, maintaining the farm's specialization in plant production at the same time.

If opportunities arise, Marta would like to build facilities for storage and direct sales, as this allows better selling prices and independence from middlemen in the food chain and the price situation immediately after the harvest. When available, she would like to expand the farm, acquire new land, construct her own farm habitat with storage and workshop facilities. She plans to run the farm with diversified production, because with a small area, on poor quality land, making a living from one standard production is difficult. Combining professional work with running a specialised farm with crop production is an optimal solution. She has no intention of getting into livestock production - it is economically risky, unprofitable, unstable and extremely labour-intensive.

In the vision of the farm development, organic production has a future and makes sense, especially with the current high production costs: fertilisers, fuels and plant protection products.

She believes that the planned development path may be a milestone for her successful activity in agriculture. The farmer is not a member of any agricultural producers' group or organization, however, she is involved in social activities. She is a member of a few organizations at the local and voivodeship level. She takes an active part in the activities of farmers' organisations, which gives an influence and direct knowledge on the national and European agricultural policy issues. She willingly participates in all conferences, meetings or trainings.

Photo: N/A