



Added Value of Networking

Success Story title	<i>Study trip for Polish dairy and beef farmers from Lower Silesia to Saxony (Germany)</i>		
Theme	<i>Training</i>		
NRN	<i>Poland</i>	Coordinator	<i>NSU Lower Silesia</i>
Partners	<i>Lower Silesian Advisory Center (public institution dealing with capacity building of farmers); Saxon State Ministry of Environment and Agriculture; Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology</i>		
Period	<i>30th November to 2nd December 2010 (3 days)</i>	Resources	<i>33 000 PLN</i>
Geo-location	<i>Saxony (Germany)</i>		
Beneficiaries	<i>23 dairy and beef producers from two NUTS-3 regions in Lower Silesia</i>		

Background

Establishment of producer groups in Poland is a difficult process, hindered by specific (post-communist) mentality: low degree of trust, unwillingness to associate in groups, disbelief in potential advantages of cooperation. Numerous obstacles are also seen in managing common enterprise, with regard to the complexity of the Polish legal system and lacking managerial education of farmers. Therefore creating producer groups requires special efforts and is one of the main priorities for rural development in Lower Silesia. Prior to the trip, no dairy producer group had been existed in the region.

Main activities

During the study trip participants visited dairy and beef farms in Saxony. German producers shared their knowledge with their Polish “peers” on the advantages and disadvantages of cooperation in producer groups. The exchange included site visits on the exemplary farms and theoretical part, where they could learn about the current trends in agricultural production in the EU (including quality of agricultural products). In particular, German farmers presented their experience in adaptation to changing market and shifting their production focus from milk into beef. An important topic discussed was the regulatory framework for producer groups in Germany, in comparison with the Polish one.

Main results/benefits

Participants of the trip gained new knowledge. Their motivation to associate in producers groups increased: 5 of them applied for registering a group. The application was received by the Marshall Office in Lower Silesia in January 2011, and the group was officially registered in January 2012 (Producer Group “Stara Białka”). The 5-year plan of the group focuses in particular on high quality of beef produce. Currently, some of the farmers participating in the trip are also planning to register a group of milk producers.

Contribution of the NSU

The NSU was actively involved in the delivery of the study visit programme and facilitated contacts with respective German institutions and farmers.

Contribution of the partners

The logistics was outsourced to the Lower Silesian Advisory Center. The German counterparts provided assistance in elaborating and delivering the content of the study trip programme.





European Commission
Agriculture and
Rural Development



Success factors

- Strong ties of Lower Silesia with Saxony (established strategic cooperation between these border regions in numerous fields)
- Strong ties of the Polish NRN staff to German institutions
- Knowledge of German language by the project staff
- Specific background of the project staff (one NRN employee had a tour guide experience; another one was a PhD student specializing in producer groups)

