



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 71

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Impact of public agricultural advisory services on renewable energy development in the Radomskie region, Poland

As part of the AgriLink project, in a selected Radom region, central Poland, a survey was conducted on the impact and role of agricultural advisory support on farmers' activities in implementing innovative solutions on their farm. One of the topics undertaken was the development of renewable energy in rural areas. The use of these technologies in agriculture enables independent energy production and limits its purchase from outside, which brings measurable financial and ecological benefits.

Public agricultural advisors are widely involved in the development of renewable energy in rural areas. They provide direct advice to farmers regarding specific renewable technologies, including trainings on the development of those technologies, selection of technologies for a given farm profile, profitability and sources of investment support. Under the RDP 2013-2020, they provide advisory services: renewable energy sources, including advisory assistance to farmers in prosumer activities.

Agricultural advisory units develop and publish numerous brochures, training materials and press articles to familiarise renewable energy issues. Advisors organise many conferences and trainings. Foreign and domestic study trips on renewable energy, in which advisors, scientists, entrepreneurs and farmers take part, are very popular. Many advisors act as renewable energy innovation brokers, cooperating with local farmers, organising thematic groups in this area.

In most regional agricultural advisory units in Poland there are teams / persons responsible for activities related to renewable energy in agricultural areas, and they operate on similar principles.

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COUNTRY/REGION:

BELGIUM

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sustainable development targets include the use of distributed, low-power energy sources that produce local energy and supply it directly to households. These criteria are best met by renewable energy sources such as biomass boilers, microbiogas plants, small wind turbines, small hydropower plants and solar collectors and photovoltaic cells. The use of these technologies in agriculture enables the independent production of energy and reduces its purchase from the outside, which brings measurable financial and ecological benefits.

The development of renewable energy can become one of the most important factors for rural development. Renewable energy will increase the quality of energy in rural areas, improve supply reliability and thus stabilize the conditions for farming.

The functionality of a modern farm is closely related to the need to cover the growing demand for electricity and heat. Farmers are forced to run a rational energy economy and seek alternative sources of supply in the face of rising fuel and electricity prices.



ABOUT AGRILINK

AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

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