



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 53

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Advisory support for agri-innovation: Application of precision farming system in Wielkopolski / Wroclawski region, Poland

The requirements introduced in agriculture, which are conditions that protect the natural environment, human and animal health, concern the use of sustainable fertilisation and integrated pest management, can be responded by adopting precise fertilisation and chemical protection practices, what is generally known by precision farming. In the selected focus regions of Wielkopolski and Wroclawski, southwestern Poland (as part of a case study within the AgriLink project) are characterised by large-scale farms established on the former state-owned farms, which, due to the intensification of production and the need to reduce costs, introduce simplified technologies in the cultivation of plants. Farmer's attitude towards innovation and change: interviewed farmers stated that advisors from the public sector cooperating with farmers at the regional level play a significant role in advising on innovation.

The vast majority of the farmer-advisor interaction takes place in the form of 'one-to-one', training sessions, workshops, and seminars. Another significant key advice provider in the case precision farming are the input and machinery private suppliers. The neighbour farmer or peer-to-peer interaction emerges as an equally relevant source of advice in this case study. Cooperation and regular meetings help to streamline farmers' decision-making regarding the introduction of innovation on their own farm. The role of advisory services in the region is significant. Public advisors are main advice providers for most of the farmers in the region, which is due to the long history of public consultancy in the region, trust in farmer-advisor relations, and the high competencies demonstrated by advisors in the subject of innovation.

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COUNTRY/REGION:

Poland

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Agriculture in the region is one of the most important sectors of the region's economy. Farmers manage about 1.800 thousand ha. of agricultural land. Farmers of the region have the largest agricultural production in the whole country, both global and commodity. Innovative well-organized agriculture - in the region the agriculture with the high support of European funds is quickly modernizing. Modernization of production assets in Wielkopolska / Wrocławski region in agriculture is proceeding much faster than on average in the country.

Farms applying or interested in the introduction of the precision farming system are mainly large-scale facilities conducting intensive crop production based largely on technological simplifications - based on the analysis of environmental conditions (soil richness analyses, information on the occurrence of pathogens).

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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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