



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 54

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Advisory support for agri-innovation: Natural resources common management in Siedlecki region, Poland

Protecting ecosystems is an important and challenging task, especially in rural areas. Negative environmental changes, caused by human activity, threaten the stability of ecosystems and the disappearance of species and precious natural habitats. The Siedleckie, central Poland (as part of a case study within the AgriLink project) is a region characterised by high natural potential on the national scale and a high concentration of Natura 2000 areas, where activities are carried out in the field of preservation of certain types of valuable natural habitats and species. Simultaneously, Siedleckie is part of the regions in Poland characterised by a significant role of the agricultural sector. Farmer's attitude towards innovation and change: all the respondent 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 important advice provider are neighbour farmers or peers, with whom farmers come into close interaction (one-to-one, single advice in person) with high frequency.

Cooperation and regular (one-to-one or collective) meetings help to streamline farmers' decision-making regarding the introduction of innovation on their own farm. The role of agricultural 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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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Agriculture has important production functions, mainly related to the production of agricultural produce. The subordination of agricultural ecosystems to food production can not, however, affect the balance of the environment. Production should be in full harmony with the privilege of nature. Biodiversity is fundamental to the functionality, stability and productivity of each of the ecosystems that underlie life and all human activity. The products and functions it provides are essential to maintaining human well-being and for future economic and social development.

Preventing degradation of the landscape and maintaining its proper functioning, while optimizing the use of the production function, requires multidirectional measures, with the most appropriate of which is shaping the spatial structure of the landscape and using the appropriate set of agricultural practices. Reducing threats is the biggest challenge of ecological policy both in Poland and in the European and global scale.



## 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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