**Dual land use - possibility to use agricultural land for both food production and the generation of solar power**

**Short summary of the practice:**

In Lithuania, according to the Lithuanian 2023-2027 Agriculture Strategic plan, dual land use is allowed – farmers can receive CAP subsidy for land plots on which solar power plants are installed – while encouraging the combination of agriculture and renewable energy sources to increase ecological and economic efficiency.

**Detailed information on the practice:**

**Problem and context:** The Lithuanian agricultural sector faces challenges related to rising energy prices and the effects of climate change. Traditional energy sources in rural areas are not only expensive, but also reduce sustainability. To reduce energy costs and promote organic farming, a practice has been introduced whereby farmers who invest in solar power plants can receive CAP subsidy if the land plot is used for dual purpose – solar power plants are installed, but land plot is used for agriculture activity – grazing or mowing of grasslands. This practice not only encourages the introduction of renewable energy sources, but also contributes to the sustainable development of agriculture in Lithuania.

**Achievement and implementation of goals:**

Practice is implemented under Lithuanian 2023-2027 Agriculture Strategic plan to fulfill Lithuania's obligations under the European Green Course and the European Union's Climate Strategy. In addition, it contributes to climate change mitigation goals and the renewal of the agricultural sector, also, it promotes sustainable energy use and reduces the environmental impact of agriculture while maintaining financial support for farmers. The dual land use principle supports both economic benefits from solar power plants and ecological goals aligned with EU environmental policies.

Changing these rules aligns with Lithuania's efforts to achieve the European Green Deal goals, encourage sustainable land use, and help farmers diversify their income while reducing dependence on traditional agricultural practices.

**Important participants and users:** The main participants were the Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania, National (CAP) Paying Agency, independent consultants, and the community of farmers themselves. These entities provided both financial support and practical assistance needed for the implementation of solar power projects. The beneficiaries were farmers, who were helped by this practice to reduce energy costs and contribute to the country's sustainability goals.

**Timescale (start/end date):**

2023-2027

**Resources needed:** Policy changes were necessary to allow dual land use under.

**Evidence of success (results achieved):** At least 500 farmers benefit from dual land use.:

* **Ecological impact:** Grasslands with solar power installations continue serving as habitats for various species, contributing to biodiversity.
* **Economic impact:** Farmers benefit from diversified income through agricultural payments and solar energy production profits.
* **Environmental impact:** This practice aids in reducing CO2 emissions and contributes to the European Green Deal goals by encouraging clean energy adoption and reduced fossil fuel dependence.

**Potential for learning or transfer:** This practice serves as an example for other EU countries aiming to combine renewable energy and ecological land use. Lithuania's experience has been shared with Latvia and Estonia, which have adapted similar initiatives. This model could benefit regions where agricultural and energy sectors intersect.

**Key success factors:**

* Clear and transparent rules enabling farmers to assess opportunities and conditions.
* A robust consultation and support system for farmers to ensure effective participation.
* A focus on sustainable land use, balancing ecological and economic goals.

**Links:**

* **Lietuvos žemės ūkio ministerija**: [www.zum.lt](https://www.zum.lt)
* **Kaimo plėtros programa 2021–2027**: [www.nma.lt](https://www.nma.lt)
* **Europos Komisija – Kaimo plėtros fondo dokumentai**: [ec.europa.eu](https://ec.europa.eu)