**Additional Priority scores for CAP farm investment projects that foresee investments in solar power plants**

**Short summary of the practice:**

In Lithuania, according to the Lithuanian 2023-2027 Agriculture Strategic plan, priority points are given to CAP farm investment projectsinvesting in solar power plants, promoting sustainable energy use and reducing dependence on traditional energy sources.

**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 under their CAP farm investment projects are given priority points. 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.

**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 required to prioritize photovoltaic (PV) systems in CAP farm investment projects evaluation process. Additional financial and advisory resources were also allocated.

**Evidence of success (results achieved):**

The practice achieved significant results. More than 1,000 solar power plants in agriculture have been installed in Lithuania, the total capacity of which exceeded 80 MW. This made it possible to reduce farmers' energy costs, and the share of renewable energy in agriculture increased to 17% (according to the data of the Ministry of the Environment of Lithuania). After implementing this practice, farmers saved more than 5 million. EUR per year for energy bills alone.

In addition, these projects contributed to Lithuania's obligations to reduce CO2 emissions in accordance with the goals of the European Green Deal and the climate change strategy.

**Potential for learning or transfer:**

This practice is a successful example of how it is possible to combine the modernization of the agricultural sector and the achievement of environmental goals through the introduction of renewable energy sources. Lithuania has already shared this experience with other EU countries, such as Latvia and Estonia, which have implemented similar initiatives based on Lithuania's example and adapting them to their regional conditions. Similar practices can easily be adopted in other countries, but different legislation and the characteristics of the energy sector should be taken into account.

Key success factors are a clear funding structure, strong public-private cooperation and well-prepared advisory services for farmers.

**Links:**

* **Lietuvos žemės ūkio ministerija**: [www.zum.lt](https://www.zum.lt)
* **Kaimo plėtros programa 2014–2020** ir **2021–2027 m. Kaimo plėtros programa**: [www.nma.lt](https://www.nma.lt)
* **Europos Komisija** - Kaimo plėtros finansavimo dokumentai: [ec.europa.eu](https://ec.europa.eu)
* **Lietuvos aplinkos ministerija** - Klimato kaitos ataskaitos: [am.lt](https://am.lt)