

New advisory services - case area Poland

Janusz Dabrowski

CDR in Brwinów

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Point zero of Waterdrive intervention logic

- ◆ National network of public/private agricultural advisory services – production oriented support and assistance in meeting of growing pile of regulatory requirements,
- ◆ Water supply perceived as „obvious” (except hot season happening in farming on regular basis),

Key challenges

- ◆ Institutional gap in terms of water management – sectoral approach dominating amongst public sector and research centres,
- ◆ Cognitive gap v. growing problem with access to water for farming activities – not seasonal trend (as before) but changed farming reality in many parts of the Baltic area. Growing general understanding of scale of challenge but still lack of set of operational guidelines for practitioners at farm level.

Main risk factors in Poland

Denmark

- ◆ Existing national policy framework
- ◆ Network of supporting institution
- ◆ Funding targeted at intervention carried out by ag advisory service

Poland

- ◆ Lack of even vaguely defined national policy objectives „translated” into language of practitioners (farmers, rural communities, ag advisors),
- ◆ Set of institutions operating in area of water management (not only in agriculture) not coordinated policies/activities between themselves
- ◆ Ag advisory services not perceived as a relevant actors in area of water management in agriculture
- ◆ Funding – „fire brigade service” (kill the fire and run away, focusing on fire not causes of fire)

Main risk of factors in Poland

To avoid creation of new type of advisors like army without weapons:

- ◆ to give advisors tasks without intellectual and financial capacity to deliver,
- ◆ to force them to operate in institutional vacuum – lead to frustration due lack of ability of delivering services expected by farmers/rural communities and other key stakeholders.

Activities delivered in 2019

- ◆ Set of consultative activities with ag advisory network, research institutes, farmers/rural communities,
- ◆ Pilot area selected,
- ◆ Arrangement of cooperation with Regional Agricultural Advisory Centre in Łódź region done,
- ◆ Group of cooperating advisors from pilot area Advisory Centre identified,
- ◆ Senior expert on water management in agriculture identified and contracted,
- ◆ Terms of references (ToR) of new type of agricultural advisory services developed and discussed/agreed with agricultural advisory centre in pilot areas.

ToR for new ag advisory services

1. To have in depth knowledge on legal regulations concerning key issues related water management in agriculture/farming practice.
2. To have practical, updated information on sources of funding for initiatives/investments related to water management in agriculture/farming practice.

Activities planned for 2020

- ◆ Follow-up activities in pilot area (work in progress)
- ◆ Designing training materials for new type of ag advisory services (work in progress)
- ◆ Test new training materials – April/May 2020 – for group of selected agricultural advisors- 1 per 16 administrative regions
- ◆ To have feedback from the trainees regarding quality and usefulness of materials,
- ◆ To appoint panel of internal CDR/AAC experts representing appropriate agricultural research institutes, ag advisory representative and practitioners/representatives of key non-agricultural actors operating in area of water management (i.e. Polskie Wody) – work in progress
- ◆ To develop two reports: one by the end of May/mid-June 2020, second December 2020/mid-January 2021 in Polish for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on new type of agriculture advisory services.

Structure of the planned reports

1. Objective of report – introduction of new type of ag advisory services.
2. National context of new services designing/development:
 - a) Description of cognitive gaps at all aspects (institutional, research etc.)
 - b) Institutional mapping of policy making and delivering actors in area of water management in Poland
3. Description of task of new type of ag advisory services
4. Analyses of experiences related to test period in pilot area.
5. Recommendations:
 - a) Limited to the current institutional framework,
 - b) Covering wider institutional restructuring.