



2008 / 2018

National Rural Network

...as time went on



EUROPEAN UNION
European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development
Europe investing in rural areas
Rural Development Programme



“Many successful things began with a small idea...”

Dear Readers,

The national rural network celebrated in 2018 the 10th anniversary of its inception in the Czech Republic. Its operation relies on the work of a number of experts and supporters of Czech rural development. At the beginning, a single sentence in a Council Regulation (EC) stated that „Each Member State shall establish a national rural network, which groups the organisations and administrations involved in rural development.“ Over the past 10 years, this sentence has been transformed in the Czech environment into an organisation that covers the entire territory of the state and includes hundreds of partners from public administration and self-government, non-profit organisations, agricultural entrepreneurs and other rural development actors.

Thanks to the national rural network staff, events have been held at national and regional level where people interested in improving living conditions in rural areas could exchange information and experience. However, this communication tool is also used to transmit current information to applicants from the Rural Development Programme. On the other hand, civil servants and people working for organisations receive feedback at different events to help them establish optimal rules for grant policies and others.

Preparation of the new Common Agricultural Policy, to come into effect after 2020, is currently coming to an end. Not all the chapters of the strategic plan have been fully elaborated, but we can already say that the national rural network will continue to work and perform a number of new assignments and tasks in addition to its existing activities.

I believe that our professional staff will deal with all the assignments arising from the new programme in a manner that will ensure that the term “National Rural Network” becomes a synonym for a quality source of information, tips and advice on how to successfully develop their environment for those living in rural communities.

Miroslav Toman

Minister of Agriculture

	Page
Introduction	2
Contents	3
Activities of the National Rural Network	4 – 14
Inspirational projects of the Rural Development Programme	15 – 30
List of Contacts	31



2008 – 2018 Ten Years of Activities of the National Rural Network in the Czech Republic

Year 2008

Two basic documents (from which we have cited selected passages) were key to the launch of activities of the national rural network:

- 1) COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Article 68 - National rural network

Each Member State shall establish a national rural network, which groups the organisations and administrations involved in rural development.

- 2) COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1974/2006 of 15 December 2006 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Subsection 5 - Technical Assistance, Article 41, paragraph 4.

National rural networks **shall be established by 31 December 2008 at the latest**.

On the basis of the above mentioned points, the inaugural meeting of the National Rural Network of the Czech Republic (the Network) was held on November 11, 2008 during the 4th session of the EAFRD Monitoring Committee. During the meeting, the basic ideas and goals of the Network were presented, where the Network's most important activities include ensuring the mutual transfer of information between central government and the regions. The meeting attendees were informed of the organisational structure of the Network on our territory (the founder of the Network was established by the Ministry of Agriculture), the method of funding its activities was presented and the basic documents necessary for starting the Network's activities were discussed.

Following this first stage at the level of the central organisation, steps have been taken to establish branches in all the regions of the Czech Republic. The Network was subdivided into district and regional networks, with agricultural and rural agencies established as contact points. A large-scale information campaign was carried out through these branches, in which the Network's ideas and goals were presented to all important rural development stakeholders.

One of the first regional meetings took place in the Olomouc Region, where future Network partners met in March 2009 in Náměšť na Hané. In the photo, basic information about the Network is presented by the then director of the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Olomouc Region (and a great promoter of the Network's ideas), Ing. Karel Stojan.



One of the fundamental tasks that the Network had to perform at the very beginning of its existence was a good quality and comprehensible presentation of the Network's ideas and goals for both the professional and broad public. One of the best methods of doing this, which proved to be the most successful, was to present the activities of the Network and its partners at major exhibitions and trade fairs.

As early as 2009, a presentation of the Network and its major partners was made at the **Země žitelka (Bread Basket)**, in Pavilion R1, which was renamed the „Pavilon venkova“ (Rural Pavilion) for the duration of the event. The tradition of participating in this prestigious exhibition, which began in 2009, has continued to the present day, and the National Rural Network and its partners has remained one of the most faithful exhibitors.



Every year the Czech Republic hosts a number of specialised exhibitions and trade fairs at a national level, which are also important from the point of view of regional partners. The best known are the series of trade fairs organised at the Brno Exhibition Centre under the name **Techagro, Silva regina** and **Animal vetex**. Once every two years, they present visitors with new products from the agricultural, forestry and breeding sectors. The Network has successfully presented itself at these trade fairs over the last



few years, and a number of interesting contacts have been established.

Another significant opportunity to present the activities of the Network and its partners in the Czech Republic is through our Slovak „neighbours“ at the **Agrokomplex** Agrarian Fair, which is regularly held in Nitra, Slovakia. The contacts gained here have enabled the creation and implementation of a number of international cooperation projects, especially using the LEADER method.

Year 2010

Over a number of years funds have been spent on a number of interesting projects under the Rural Development Programme. Information about these has been included in a series of information brochures and leaflets. In 2010, an **English version** of the **brochure** „Successful Rural Development Programme Projects“ was prepared. At the same time, a **DVD** with both Czech and English versions of the advertisements was made.

The public's interest in outcomes from the Network activities and completed Rural Development Programme projects has been reinforced by other non-traditional activities. One of these was a **photographic competition** organised in 2014, which included a category focusing on photographs of rural development projects. The award-winning photographs were exhibited in the Rural Pavilion at the Bread Basket agricultural salon in 2014.



Another non-traditional form of promotion for Rural Development Programme projects was the brochure entitled **„Procházka po českém venkově“ (Walking Through the Czech Countryside)**, which was made up of individual A6 sheets joined together by a rivet, which created a „fan“ when opened up. There were 12 beneficiaries and their completed projects on each page (text and photographs). This brochure was accompanied by an internet presentation with a competition for the public, where one of the prizes was a weekend stay on a farm focused on agrotourism.



One of the most important means of communication, which has helped (and continues to help) the dissemination of information on good practice and the activities of Network partners was a printed magazine. In 2011 a project was prepared where the **special magazine VENKOV** was published for three years, solely concerned with Rural Development Programme news and Network activities.



Individual issues are available on the MA website:

<http://eagri.cz/public/web/mze/venkov/archiv/periodikum-venkov/>

A number of other advertising messages and editorial articles have been presented over the past few years **in national periodicals and other printed materials**.

Articles on issues concerning the Rural Development Programme could already be read in magazines such as Potravinářský obzor (Food Horizon), AGRO báze, Myslivost (Hunting), Doma v regionech (Home in the Regions), Oko NOKu (Bulletin of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic), Pekár cukrář (Bakery Confectioner) and other media outlets focussing on similar themes.



In October 2012, the **VENKOV 2012 Conference** was held in Nové Hradky. Even this kind of regular meeting of the partners (which turned out to be very popular over a number of years) was „kicked in“ shortly after the launch of the Network, as early as the 2009 conference in Holešov.

Individual papers focus on themes that are emphasised at one point or another and which the conference participants can discuss with invited experts during the main plenary session and during the workshops. The motto of the 2012 conference was „The goal of developing community life in the countryside is satisfied residents“ and over a period of three days the main rural challenges were discussed for the upcoming 2014-2020 period.

An integral part of the Venkov conference is also excursions to see examples of good practice in projects implemented under the Rural Development Programme. As the conferences take place in different parts of our country, participants have the opportunity to learn about these areas and to talk to applicants from different types of rural regions. Extracts from the individual conference presentations are available on the Ministry of Agriculture website <http://eagri.cz/public/web/mze/venkov/akce/narodni-uroven-csv/> (materials relating to events held before 2015 can be found in the Archives on the same website).



One of the important elements of the Network's institutional structure, not only at the national but also at the European level, was (and is) the **Thematic Working Group (TWG)**. These are set up on a temporary basis and their activities contribute to addressing the current needs and requirements of RDP Managing Authority, grant applicants or Network partners. TWG activities enable partners and experts to discuss issues related to rural development and agriculture, and the outputs generated contribute to starting to solve problems in specific areas.

The following TWGs were operating during the 2007-2013 programming period:

- Publicity for RDP outputs
- Leader Working Group
- Complex land consolidation
- Possibilities of preserving normal life in arid areas of the Czech Republic
- Protection of land resources, water resources and flood protection
- Working group on the influence of human activities on the Czech countryside with an emphasis on the water regime and water retention in the landscape

The following TWGs are currently operating during the 2014-2020 programming period:

- Fruit trees in rural areas with a link to short supply chains
- Social agriculture - proposed systems of measures for conditions existing in the Czech Republic

In November 2013, a **two-day TWG meeting** was held in Moravia in Křtiny on the „Possibilities of preserving normal life in arid areas CR“, which brought together experts dealing with protecting the soil and the countryside from the negative impacts of climate change (primarily drought). Among other things discussions took place on the outputs of the study entitled **”Study into manifestations of drought in relation to soil degradation in the extremes of 2013”**, which was prepared within the framework of the Network project.

There was an extremely active TWG working under the name „Working group on the influence of human activities on the Czech countryside with emphasis on the water regime and water retention in the landscape“. This allowed discussions, primarily between experts and those interested in conserving water in rural environments. It also prepared a **manual** in 2013, which is available in electronic form on the MoA website.

In the current programming period there is an interesting output from the TWG on „Fruit trees in rural environments with a link to short supply chains“, a topic on which various meetings and seminars have already been held and there were prepared **information videos** that are available to the public on Youtube.



2014 was one of the years that has placed an additional work load on Network staff at both national and regional levels. One programming period fed into another; and it was a time when not only new terms and conditions have to be laid down for drawing subsidies, but the period that was coming to a close also had to be wound up and evaluated. Under RDP 2007-2013 a number of interesting projects were implemented and it was important to provide information on the most interesting of these (as inspiration for the new programming period) to future prospective grant applicants. Some of the best ways of transferring information involved, and still involve, **expert excursions to see examples of good practice**. In 2014 (and not only) excursions were taking place both in the Czech Republic. Information on the most interesting results from these excursions was also provided in the form of articles in the VENKOV periodical, or in other magazines.

Examples of activities:

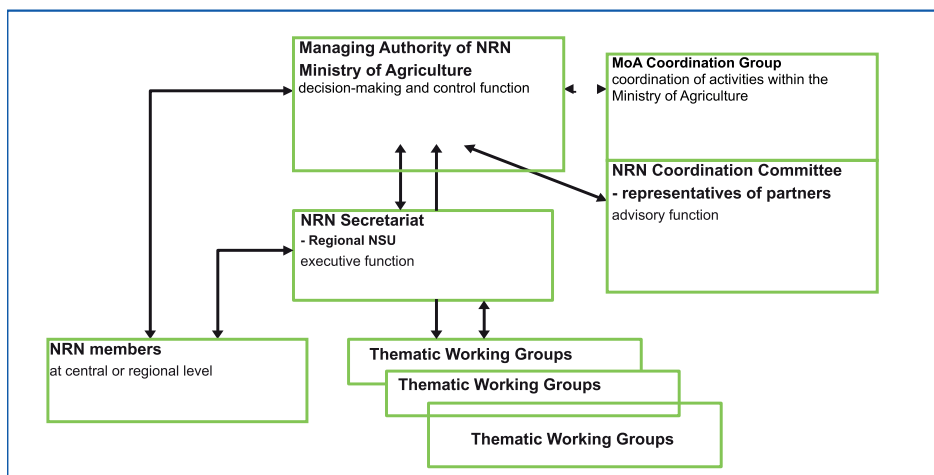
Excursion in the Czech Republic – Ústí nad Labem Region – expert excursion „For successful projects from RDP 2007–2013 – examples of good practice for inspiration” (Autumn 2014)



International Excursion: An expert excursion –Austria (Tyrol) – was prepared in cooperation with the Regional Agriculture and Rural Agency for the Olomouc Region in October 2014.

On the basis of a change in the organisational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, the transformation of the Agriculture and Rural Agency, which had previously been a regional contact point for the Network, was completed during 2014. After 2015, experts from the regional branches of the **State Agricultural Intervention Fund (SAIF)** were entrusted with executing the Network's agenda at **NUTS 2 level**.

During the course of 2015, a number of working sessions, meetings and other activities were carried out, during which all the necessary steps were taken to transfer all the necessary documents, support materials and human resources needed for an agenda as extensive as the Network's. At the same time, new rules had to be established for the Network's operations. All of this was also in the context of the launch of the new programming period and the preparation and approval of the 2014-2020 Network Action Plan. At the same time, an information campaign had to be created, aimed at all the partners in the regions so that all the people/entities concerned could understand the prepared changes and not be significantly disturbed by the programme of regional activities prepared for the Network during the given year.



Since 2015, the organisational structure of the Network has functioned in the following format (schematic):

More detailed clarification of some positions:

Regional networks are set up at the level of NUTS 2 with a further internal breakdown by region (NUTS 3 level) and their activities are covered at Secretariat level by the staff of the regional departments of the SAIF.

The MoA Coordination Group (coordination of activities within the Ministry) and the Network Coordination Committee (composed of governmental and non-governmental organisations) have an advisory role. These bodies discuss the Network's annual implementation plans at their annual meetings, and their members are informed on the results of activities implemented to date.

Thematic working groups operate at both regional and central levels.

Year 2016

In the Rural Development Programme 2014–2020, **there was a change in the announcement of calls for** applications compared to the Rural Development Programme 2007–2013. Regular announcement of individual operations is scheduled twice a year in the spring and autumn calls (in the previous programming period it was 3 times a year). With few exceptions, specific operations have stabilised their „deadline“ for announcements, and potential beneficiaries can better schedule their specific projects into specific operations. This certain „regularity“ in announcing the call for applications for certain operations allows the Networks to better prepare the content of specific information campaigns sufficiently in advance for relevant groups of potential applicants at national and regional level.

Events with this focus are very popular among Network partners and potential beneficiaries and are always widely visited.





Important sources of information for grant beneficiaries and Network partners include **professional brochures, leaflets, publications, printed matter and other materials** in printed and electronic form (in addition to various seminars and workshops).

Over the ten years of Network activities, dozens of documents have been produced at national and regional levels and their focus has been truly diverse. Interesting past RDP projects and the activities of Network partners were presented not only in the field of primary agricultural production, but also in the field of food processing, forestry, diversification, land consolidation, local action groups etc.

Printed publications are for the most part out of stock but can be found in electronic form on <http://eagri.cz/public/web/mze/venkov/publikace-a-dokumenty> (or older works are stored in the Archive "tab")

Another important activity, towards which the staff of the Network Secretariat contribute, is the organisation of the Village of the Year contest, which has awarded the Orange ribbon award for co-operation between municipalities and agricultural holdings since 2007 (this can sometimes also be awarded for successful cooperation between forestry enterprises or local volunteer organisations of hunters, fishermen and beekeepers). Current information and the results of the individual competition years can also be found on <http://eagri.cz/public/web/mze/venkov/oceneni-a-souteze/oceneni-oranzova-stuha-vesnice-roku/>



Year 2018

In the year of 2018, the staff of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) secretariat selected Prague as the venue for the 11th International Meeting of Representatives of Networks from other European countries. At these events, participants exchange experiences and best ideas from their countries that help develop European rural areas.

The meeting was preceded by an expert excursion prepared by the Czech Network staff as host country representatives. It was focused on introducing successfully implemented RDP projects in our country and at the same time provided room for discussion between beneficiaries visited and the foreign participants. The excursion was attended by representatives of 15 European countries, with a follow-up meeting attended by a total of 70 participants from 23 European Union Member States and European Commission staff.



Within the framework of international cooperation, the activities of representatives of the Czech Republic in various international events and meetings have been financially supported in the past. These included, for example, ensuring Czech participation in the European Rural Parliament or excursions of representatives of Czech local action groups abroad, where new contacts were established for the preparation of international cooperation projects and shared experience of good practice with the use of subsidies for the development of rural areas.

The Network also provided **translation and printing of some inspirational foreign brochures – for example a brochure** entitled „ENRD-Connecting Rural Europe“, which offers more information on ENRD activities or the „Operational Groups – Turn Your Idea into Innovation“ brochure, which contributed to a better understanding of the issue of the European Innovation partnership in the field of agriculture.

Over the past decade, tens of thousands of projects have been implemented in the Czech Republic, supported by the Rural Development Programme 2007–2013 as well as the Rural Development Programme 2014–2020. One of the major tasks of the Network was, is and will certainly still be in the future, the dissemination of information on interesting projects and on successful applicants under this programme. The following pages will present projects that can serve as an inspiration for new potential beneficiaries in a given operation.

Operation 4.1.1 Support for Investments in Agricultural Holdings

Beneficiary:	Statek Novák Jarpice - Kamenice s.r.o.
Project name:	Modernisation of livestock production
Project number:	15/001/0411h/120/001095
Project location and year of project reimbursement:	NUTS 4 Kladno; 2017
Total aid:	CZK 21,318,193.00

Project characteristics:

The project involved:

- 1) a new barn with 238 stalls (UM) for milking cows (slurry management),
- 2) storage pit at the new barn with 100 m³ storage space including pumping and stirring equipment, main storage pit for slurry with a usable volume of 10,000 m³ including pumping and stirring equipment,
- 3) a new manure storage facility for a 1080m² straw-mixed manure with a paved handling surface and a 100 m³ pit,
- 4) modernisation of a barn with a capacity of 242 UM for milking cows, of which 240 UM have manure management and 60 UM deep straw bedding,
- 5) modernisation of a barn with a capacity of 248 UM for milking cows, manure management.



Operation 4.2.1 Support for Investments in Processing /Marketing and/or Development of Agricultural Products

Beneficiary:	EKOFRUKT Slaný, spol. s r.o.
Project name:	Modernisation of production line for fruit bars
Project number:	15/001/0421b/120/000622
Project location and year of project reimbursement:	NUTS 4 Kladno; 2018
Total aid:	CZK 1,907,092.00

Project characteristics:

Since project implementation, the applicant has been able to produce fruit bars (from fruit and dry fruits) that are round in shape, because previously all the bars had been flat. This has met customer requirements for this shape of product. It is also able to produce bars coated with different types of fruit pastes (meaning the proportion of fruit in the product has increased). The purchase of new equipment to lay down material has also enabled the launch of a second full-service production line. During project implementation the sales area in the company's premises, where it sells its own products, was renovated. By purchasing a barcode reader, the applicant is able immediately to enter into its information system data on the raw materials used for the production of food products and also to improve the traceability of the raw materials used. This project was visited by representatives of foreign Networks during an excursion prepared for the 11th International Meeting of Networks in Prague in June 2018.



Operation 4.3.I Land Consolidation

Beneficiary:

State Land Office – Ústí nad Orlicí branch

Project name:

Flood protection and anti-erosion measures in the municipality of Voděřady

Project number:

12/017/1140d/453/003878

Project location and year of project reimbursement:

NUTS 4 Ústí nad Orlicí; 2015

Total aid:

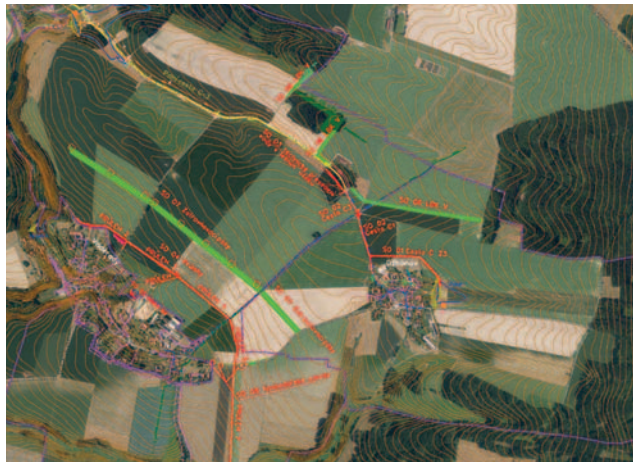
CZK 6,760,314.00

Project characteristics:

In the cadastral area (k.ú.) of Voděřady, near České Heřmanice and in the k.ú. of Džbánov near Litomyšl land improvements were made. The main reason for starting these being to resolve the municipality's flood protection. Although it does not lie along any watercourse, it was still flooded with fresh water and mud from the surrounding fields. A number of measures have been implemented, including dry polders, contour furrows, grasslands and ditch roads. A biocorridor was built along the valley as an additional mean of slowing down or retaining water. The implementation of a whole series of measures also established conditions for mitigating soil erosion.



The reason for the realisation of these land improvements was also to resolve problems of access to the land on high-quality, drained roads with a reinforced surface, which also provide an anti-erosion effect and flood protection. The completed biocorridor has contributed to increasing the ecological stability of the landscape and mitigating erosion.



Operation 4.3.2 Forest Infrastructure

Beneficiary:

JAN PARISH

Project name:

Forest path, Přední kopec

Project number:

I5/001/0432a/452/000578

Project location and year of project

NUTS 4 Rychnov nad Kněžnou; 2016

reimbursement:

Total aid:

CZK 2,564,000.00

Project characteristics:

The parameters of the original road, which had occasional reinforcement (but no drainage) did not allow for the yearly removal of timber products. Under the project, the category 2L forest road with a total length of 3100 m, was reconstructed with an expansion of the crown of the roadway and reinforcement of the gravel surface, including on the verge. In addition, transverse and longitudinal drainage was added, the ends of the 60 cm culverts were reinforced, infiltration pits were sunk by culverts that do not drain into water courses. Cross-drains were dug and reinforced, new ditches were dug and existing ditches were cleaned. Repairs were also made to storage points for timber and strutting added.



The project contributed to mitigating the influence of erosion activity, caused by the transport of timber in semi-trailers (reducing transport distances). These repairs and the additional structural work have made a positive impact on the water regime and contribute controlling erosion (by strengthening drains and culverts and the digging of an infiltration pit).

Operation 6.1.1 Business Start up Aid for Young Farmers

Beneficiary:

Jindra Šancová

Project name:

Merboltice goat farm - construction of a cheese plant

Project number:

08/003/13200/342/001111

Project location and year of project

NUTS 4 Děčín; 2009

reimbursement:

Total aid:

CZK 953,691.00

Project characteristics:

The project included structural repairs to part of the existing barn (a protected cultural monument), which was converted to a cheese plant covering an area of 62 m². The works covered the addition of insulation, the building of partitions, laying electricity, water and sewerage lines, tiling and the construction of a wooden gallery for the transport of milk cans. The layout of the cheese plant complies with technological requirements (and the relevant legislation), after passing through the entry foyer and public dressing room, one enters the clean dressing room (where there is a shower and WC) before entering the production area. The plant has pasteurising equipment and the separate dairy farm has cooling equipment for milk. The cheese is also salted in the plant, packaging takes place in the next room and the end room is used for preparing shipments. The production capacity allows for the processing of 150 l of milk (about 15 kg of cheese) per shift. All the rooms are heated, ventilated and lit in accordance with established standards.



Operation 6.4.1 Investment into Non-Agricultural Activities in Rural Areas

Beneficiary:

AGRO VYŠOČINA BYSTRÉ, joint stock company

Project name:

Technological upgrade of a bakery

Project number:

16/002/0641a/453/001110

Project location and year of project

NUTS 4 Svitavy; 2017

reimbursement:

Total aid:

CZK 665,000.00

Project characteristics:

Under the project, the beneficiary has invested in the renovation/upgrading of existing obsolete technical equipment in its non-agricultural bakery operations. The bakery (100% owned by the applicant) complements its agricultural activity and stabilises the business. Three machines have been purchased, which serve to prepare raw dough, to process it and to work on finished products. Specifically, this has involved the acquisition of a spiral kneading machine, bread slicers (which can possibly be used on similar products) and a dough rolling machine. The acquisition of this modern machinery has helped reduce operating costs, enabled the production of better quality products and ensured greater operational reliability.



Beneficiary:

LIBOR VAŘEJKA

Project name:

Agropenzion Meziboří

Project number:

12/017/3130b/563/001587

Project location and year of project

NUTS 4 Žďár nad Sázavou; 2015

reimbursement:

Total aid:

CZK 4,788,474.00

Project characteristics:

The beneficiary has modernised and reconstructed the buildings of the original estate where his ancestors lived 360 years ago. The buildings of the original estate were already old (the most recent structure dates from 1926) and their technical condition was unsatisfactory. The residential part of the estate was unoccupied for about 10 years.

Under the project, the original family house underwent structural works and reconstruction (including the working areas) in order to convert it into the agropension. A restaurant with a capacity of about 12–14 guests was built in part of the original building, along with a confectionery, hygiene facilities and kitchen producing around 50 meals a day. The original cellar under the building is now used as a warehouse. Another part of the building was reconstructed to provide technical support for agropension guests, with a bicycle rental store, a covered seating area for guests and storehouses. Accommodation has been built on the 2nd floor, consisting of 3 living units (rooms with ensuite bathrooms), a kitchenette and technical rooms (luggage storage, cleaning warehouse, furniture store). Paved areas have been added to the exterior as well as landscaped gardens and the complex also boasts a pétanque court.



Operations 6.4.3 Investment Supporting Energy from Renewable Sources

This operation as such has been cancelled since the 6th call for applications within RDP 2014–2020. However, the plan to support the construction and upgrading of moulded biofuel production facilities has been preserved and has been moved to operation 6.4.1 Investing in non-agricultural activities as a separate intervention c).

Beneficiary:	Dubická zemědělská a.s.
Project name:	Construction of an EKOVER pellet production line
Project number:	10/009/3110d/671/000617
Project location and year of project reimbursement:	NUTS 4 Šumperk; 2012
Total aid:	CZK 3,431,286.00

Project characteristics:

Within the framework of the project, the beneficiary has carried out structural works on an agricultural building (originally a fruit warehouse) to use it for a pellet production line (the floor under the line has been concreted, a new control room has been built) and purchased a separating and cutting table, granulator, homogenisation tank, pellet cooler, mobile supply bins for pellets, including rails, other components (conveyors, switchboards, etc.), equipment to de-dust the line and adapted the electrical installation.

The completed project contributed to:

- 1) expanding the applicant's business beyond primary agricultural production
- 2) increasing (or sustaining) employment
- 3) efficient use of crop residues to produce biofuels
- 4) fulfilment of commitments to the EU to increase the percentage of use of renewable energy sources.



Operation 8.5.2 Non-Productive Investments in Forests

Beneficiary:

Statutory City of Pardubice

Project name:

Studánecký les – forest trails – 1st stage

Project number:

16/002/08520/453/000191

Project location and year of project reimbursement:

NUTS 4 Pardubice; 2017

Total aid:

CZK 1,618,105.00

Project characteristics:

Studánecký les lies close to the densely populated part of the town and has good connections with other adjacent forest and landscape features. The purpose of the first stage of the project (which should have a total of 5 stages) should be to bring the existing hiking trails to a state that will allow everyday intensive use.

H1, H4, C2 trails were laid and outdoor furniture installed in the area - 3 wooden tables and 6 benches. Bicycle racks were also installed for visitors (4 for each bench) as well as waste bins. A culvert was set into the trail.



Project activities have contributed to increasing the recreational role of the forest, regulating visitor traffic, ensuring the safety of forest visitors and forest maintenance.



Operation 8.4.I Restoration of Forestry Potential after Natural Disasters

Beneficiary:	Vojenské lesy a statky ČR, s. p.
Project name:	Forest restoration from the effects of Hurricane Kyrill in the Boletice military district
Project number:	08/003/2241a/231/000043
Project location and year of project reimbursement:	NUTS 4 Český Krumlov; 2010
Total aid:	CZK 43,633,351.00

Project characteristics:

During the night from January 18th to 19th 2007, hurricane Kyrill raged over the Czech Republic and, in the Šumava, the military district of Boletice (in the territory of the applicant's division) – Horní Planá) suffered major damage to forest stands. The worst affected was the forest section of Knížecí stolec, where 160,000 m³ of timber fell victim to the strong winds. The aim of the project was the afforestation of areas of destruction in this district.



Operation 8.5.I Investments in the Protection of Soilimproving and Stabilising Tree Species

Beneficiary:	Kinský dal Borgo, a.s.
Project name:	Kinský dal Borgo – protection of stabilising and soil improving trees by fencing, 2016
Project number:	16/002/08510/420/000066
Project location and year of project reimbursement:	NUTS 4 Nymburk, Pardubice, Hradec Králové; 2017
Total aid:	CZK 311,600.00

Project characteristics:

Under this project, blanket protection was provided for stabilising and soil improving trees (fencing) from the planting period to the rehabilitation stage - wooden or wire fencing at a minimum height of 1.6 m was installed. Stabilising and soil improving trees prevent the gradual degradation of forest soils, contribute to improving the water content of forest soil, help to consolidate the structure of forest stands, increase resistance to strong winds and reduce the susceptibility of stands to damage by pests.



Operation 8.6.1 Equipment and Technologies for Forestry

Beneficiary:	Kinský dal Borgo, a.s.
Project name:	Kinský dal Borgo forestry equipment – tractor, crusher and soil milling machine
Project number:	15/001/0861a/452/000108
Project location and year of project reimbursement:	NUTS 4 Hradec Králové; 2017
Total aid:	CZK 1,567,750.00

Project characteristics:

Under the project, a new universal wheeled tractor was purchased, with forestry equipment – equipment for moving wood, a woodcutter - crusher for the treatment of remnants leaving biomass on the surface and two-spindle soil cutter for mechanical preparation of the soil before restoration of the forest.

The acquisition of this forestry equipment contributed to:

- 1) financial savings - outside entities no longer need to be hired to work on their own property;
- 2) reductions in the cost of operating and maintaining older machines;
- 3) independence and the possibility of spreading work out over the whole year;
- 4) management of random extraction on an as-needed basis when using its own equipment;
- 5) employment, efficiency and job security in the performance of their own activities;
- 6) increasing the protection of the forest as its own property (protection against adverse influences and pests, reduction of damage to stands and on forest roads as a result of forest management activities).

The equipment purchased is environmentally friendly, particularly in terms of soil protection (burying, erosion, surface soil disruption).



Operace 8.6.2 Technical Equipment of Woodworking Establishments

Beneficiary:

Project name:

Project number:

Project location and year of project

reimbursement:

Total aid:

Ing. Karel Kloud

Purchase of technical equipment for a plant

08/005/1122a/120/003838

NUTS 4 Příbram; 2010

CZK 637,000.00

Project characteristics:

The beneficiary manages forest property, engages in cultivation, logging, and the sale of raw wood. It also engages in logging. To expand its options for processing logs with a diameter greater than 20 cm, it purchased a tribal band saw, which is also used for the production of building and carpentry lumber. The waste material is processed on the chipper and subsequently used for heating purposes.



The completed project has helped to expand the range of products offered, to increase the quality of production and labour productivity and to provide additional financial stability for the company. It has reduced its dependence on acquiring outside services.



The contents of **Measure M16 – Cooperation** reaffirms the increased emphasis placed by the relevant EU bodies on the thematic objective of strengthening research, technological development and innovation and at the same time the thematic objective of increasing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in the agricultural sector. The purpose of the measure is to contribute to the achievement of competitive agriculture, food and forestry and to contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources.

In the Czech Republic, the measure is divided into 6 operations. Some operations deal with completely new activities or forms of administration, which is why no projects have previously been implemented and reimbursed in our country (even of a similar nature). In this case, only the basic information on the characteristic of the operation will be given, or the experience from abroad will be presented.

Information on Cooperation projects is published on

<http://eagri.cz/public/app/eagriapp/pubprv/prehled/>

Operation 16.1.1 Support for Operational Groups and EIP Projects

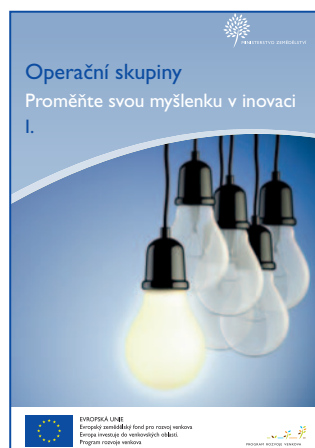
Beneficiary:	AGRA Řisuty s.r.o.
Project name:	Implementation of new and innovative precision farming technologies in growing systems
Project number:	16/003/1611a/120/000095
Project location and year of project reimbursement:	NUTS 4 Kladno; physical work on the project is expected to end in 2019
Total aid:	CZK 9,632,500.00 (estimated)

The project is projected to be multi-annual, has been approved for support and is currently being implemented Therefore, some of the above data is only assumed.

Project characteristics:

The primary objective of the project is to innovate existing technologies and introduce new technological and analytical procedures of precision agriculture in plant production based on the extension of technical equipment and innovation of detection and analytical software systems. The project will involve cooperation between an agricultural enterprise, 4 scientific centres and an advisory organisation. Innovative technological processes are expected to contribute to fuel savings and the resulting reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, more efficient use of nitrogen-based fertilisers, more efficient sowing, etc.

A brochure has been prepared and issued, using the funds of the National Rural Network, focusing on the issue of operational groups (it can be found on the MoA website in electronic form).



Operation 16.2.1 Support for the Development of new Products, Procedures and Technologies in Agricultural Primary Production

For this case, an inspirational project has been taken from a measure with a similar focus from the previous programming period.

Beneficiary:

Jan Holub s.r.o.

Project name:

Development of new technologies to acclimatise plants cloned in vitro and their practical application

Project number:

12/015/11120/671/000309

Project location and year of project reimbursement:

NUTS 4 Olomouc; 2015

Total aid:

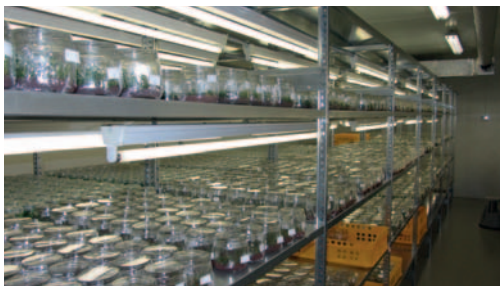
CZK 4,364,100.00

Project characteristics:

The beneficiary runs a horticultural enterprise. It deals with the propagation and cultivation of selected ornamental and fruit species by micropropagation in vitro („in glass“) or cloning. This progressive biotechnological process allows (with major economic benefits) the reproduction of selected plant material and new breeding stock over a short period (months) and in large quantities (hundreds of thousands of units).

Under the project, a methodology was developed that allowed the propagation of small sheep and ornamental plants that are extremely hard to reproduce, using this method. The necessary procedures have been developed in cooperation with a scientific research institute.

The output of the project included, among others, 4 polythene greenhouses covering a total area of 2,000 m² and an adjoining container workshop with a total area of 3,600 m².



Operation 16.2.2 Support for the Development of new Products, Procedures and Technologies in Processing and Marketing Agricultural Products (Food-processing Innovation)

Beneficiary:

Moravia Lacto a.s.

Project name:

Innovation of the production of functional dairy drinks

Project number:

15/001/16220/563/000002

Project location and year of project

NUTS 4 Jihlava; 2017

reimbursement:

Total aid:

CZK 50,000,000.00

Project characteristics:

The project's primary objective was to propose a formula for a new dairy smoothie product and to design and verify its production process in order to ensure a long shelf life. Another project objective was to extend the durability of existing liquid non fermented and fermented products. Extending the durability of new and existing products (at least 10 days) was ensured by using a proposed new packaging method, a new type of packaging and a newly designed storage method in a perfectly cooled warehouse and shipping centre. The partner company was MILCOM a.s.



Operation 16.3.1 Equipment and Resource Sharing

Operation 16.4.1 Horizontal and Vertical Cooperation among Actors in Short Supply Chains and Local Markets

No project has yet been implemented or reimbursed for either supply operation. However, the issue of short supply chains is strongly accentuated and, most importantly, a number of events focused on this topic have been held in the South Moravian Region. Applicants are given the opportunity to find out about new products at various seminars and workshops, examples of good practice can be visited through foreign professional excursions.



Measure M19 – Support for local development based on the LEADER initiative (community-led local development)

The LEADER method is an initiative linking activities to develop the rural economy, whose main objective is to provide intensive support for rural development through the local population. Implementation of the LEADER method takes place through local action groups (LAGs). A LAG is a local partnership between the private and public sectors operating in a defined subregional territory for which it is proposing and implementing a strategy.

In the case of the Czech Republic, the measure is divided into two operations.

Operation 19.2.1 Support for the implementation of operations under a community-led local development strategy.

The example of a completed project is selected from the previous programming period 2007–2013

Beneficiary:	Dubická zemědělská a.s.
Project name:	New technology for production of meat products
Project number:	11/014/41200/132/001327
Project location and year of project reimbursement:	NUTS 4 Šumperk; 2012
Total aid:	CZK 130,000.00

Project characteristics:

The result of the project was the acquisition of modern technology - a smoker for meat products, which allows the farmer to process meat from his own stock. The project followed on from the objectives of the Horní Pomoraví LEADER LAG Strategic Plan.

Operation 19.3.1 Preparation and Implementation of Cooperation Activities of the Local Action Groups

The example of a completed project is selected from the previous programming period 2007–2013

Beneficiary:	LAG Podralsko o. s.; MAS Turnovsko
Project name:	It's nice here too! 2nd stage
Project number:	09/007/4210a/451/000013
Project location and year of project reimbursement:	selected municipalities on land owned by both applicants (Liberec region, Central Bohemian region); 2011
Total aid:	CZK 4,530,527.00

Project characteristics:

This project has managed the repair and equipment of selected exhibition sites on the territory of the Turnovsko and Podralsko LAGs. The exhibition stands present a given location, and there are also links to all the other sites created during the implementation of Stages I and II of the project. This has helped to improve the information provided to the region's visitors. A number of events and cultural activities are also taking place in the renovated premises.



Central offices:

Ministry of Agriculture

RDP Managing Authority
Těšnov 65/17
110 00 Prague 1 - Nové Město
www.eagri.cz/prv
www.eagri.cz/venkov

State Agricultural Intervention Fund

Ve Smečkách 33
110 00 Prague 1
www.szif.cz

List of regional coordinators (according to NUTS 2):

Region	Name and surname	e-mail	Mobile
CP SZIF	Ing. Martina Petržílková, MBA	martina.petrzilkova@szif.cz	703 197 329
CP SZIF	Ing. Soňa Roškotová	sona.roskotova@szif.cz	735 705 490
CP SZIF	Ing. Gabriela Lenderová	gabriela.lenderova@szif.cz	733 677 821
CP SZIF	Ing. Tereza Antošová	tereza.antosova@szif.cz	703 197 256
RO SZIF Prague	Mgr. Jan Veselský	jan.veselsky@szif.cz	730 552 063
RO SZIF Prague	Mgr. Miroslav Prokop	Miroslav.Prokop@szif.cz	735 764 266
RO SZIF České Budějovice	Ing. Kamila Havel Kupcová	kamila.havelkupcova@szif.cz	724 619 120
RO SZIF České Budějovice	Ing. Linda Vopátková	Linda.Vopatkova@szif.cz	724 619 227
RO SZIF Ústí nad Labem	Bc. Marcela Synková	marcela.synkova@szif.cz	731 536 323
RO SZIF Hradec Králové	Dipl.-Ing. et Ing. Jaroslav Novotný	jaroslav.novotny@szif.cz	731 193 811
RO SZIF Hradec Králové	Ing. Miroslava Stárková	miroslava.starkova@szif.cz	724 619 187
RO SZIF Brno	Ing. Dagmar Adámková	dagmar.adamkova@szif.cz	724 619 213
RO SZIF Brno	Ing. Lucie Sýsová	lucie.sysova@szif.cz	731 689 810
RO SZIF Olomouc	Ing. Markéta Bezoušková	marketa.bezouskova@szif.cz	730 526 791
RO SZIF Olomouc	Ing. Tomáš Čermák	tomas.cermak@szif.cz	730 543 753
RO SZIF Opava	Ing. Vanda Myšáková	vanda.mysakova@szif.cz	601 393 906



Published by:
Ministry of Agriculture
Managing Authority Department for the RDP
Těšnov 65/17, 110 00 Praha 1 – Nové Město
www.eagri.cz

Graphics: Graf Print s.r.o.
Princo International, s.r.o.

Printing: Princo International, s.r.o.

Photo: MoA archives (National Rural Network)

ISBN: 978-80-7434-503-6
Second revised edition

Published 2019