

C OF FARM



CASE STUDY: CIPPATO & CIPPATINO (C&C)

Introduction

The case study relates to CIPPATO & CIPPATINO (C&C) which is a co-operation network established in 2016 and it is a "Temporary Scope Association" (TSA) a cooperation network,). This form of cooperation is recognized -by National Legislation, and it relates to the realization of a specific project.

The TSA aims to realize an innovation project, called CIPPATO & CIPPATINO (C&C) financed by the Rural Development Programme (RDP). The scope of the project is to improve the whole chain for the production of energy from wood, particularly in the improvement of the woodchip chain supply for heating and energy. The topic of the project is to involve the farmers in the whole chain, (from chip production to energy selling) increasing their add value. The TSA includes forest companies and centers for research which are responsible for transfer of innovation.

Basic information



Pistoia (I)

Name CIPPATO & CIPPATINO (C&C)

Year of establishment 2016

Kind of cooperation Association , Other types of cooperation

Number of farmers/ landowners/ entrepreneurs/ enterprises involved 6

Internet links www.cippatino.ciatoscana.eu



Farm Data

Description

The TSA includes 6 partners. These include: 2 forest companies (Antonio Orlandini and Olivieri Luca), one higher education institution (University of Florence), 2 specialized; research centers (CNR IVALSA and IBIONET) and the farmers association Cia Toscana. Both farms participating in the TSA are family businesses operating in the forestry sector, one in the Province of Pistoia and the other one in the Province of Lucca. Both farms produce firewood, chips and wooden poles.



Cooperation Process Data

The main focus of this cooperation experience, currently in progress, is co-operation between research institutions and farmers. The European policy for rural development identifies, as its first priority, “fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas” (EU Regulation 1305/2013, Art. 5 Point 1) and promotes many measures giving financial support for innovation processes; and this includes cooperation between farmers and research centers (Measure 16.1 and 16.2). The innovation purpose of cooperation project Cippato & Cippatino C&C, co-financed by Tuscany Regional Government in the framework of a wider initiative (the Integrated Chain Project), is focused on the production of “micro woodchip” for heating, particularly for pellet stoves.

The objectives of the cooperative are:

1. Promote the wood products for energy production (wood chips and micro-wood chips);
2. Develop a system for traceability of wood products;
3. Realize a prototype for micro-wood chip production;
4. Define the main standard of quality for the micro-wood chip;
5. Develop marketing actions.

The biggest threat facing this project is the progressive abandonment of forest cultivation due to an inability to generate sufficient income and added value from this activity. Therefore, the main challenge is to create an innovative supply chain, thereby valorizing wood as an energy source. This fuel type can be produced directly by farmers, without industrial processes, and thus increasing the income of farmers.

The project managed by the TSA, employs 2 full-time equivalents over a 24 month period. The head partner of the TSA is the forest company Antonio Orlandini, supported by a professional consultant, that provide for coordination and administrative management of the project.

The form of cooperation requires the project team to have a broad knowledge base, with a particular emphasis on:

- Wood energy chain, covering the whole process, from forest cultivation to energy production
- Wood-energy chain innovation project management and dissemination Information Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Rural Development Program procedural regulations

The processes involved in this innovation project include:

- **Production:** the partners are developing a prototype of sifter for the screening of micro woodchip, and a more efficient drying system;
- **Storage and selling:** the storage is very important for the drying process of wood chips and one of the most important quality parameter of this product. The cooperative aims to develop a special storage platform to prepare the product for selling;
- **Traceability and quality control:** the consumers of this type of product pay attention to the quality and the environmental impact of fuel. Therefore a successful marketing strategy must be developed in order to certify the origin (local supply, environmental impact etc) and characteristics of the woodchip.

The collaboration between farmers and researchers aims to test innovative processes, collect data and develop a management model which can be replicated by other farmers. Finally, the farmers' association is responsible for dissemination and exploitation/transfer of research / project findings.

Possible advantages and critical points include:

Advantages:

- Collaboration between farmers and researchers can stimulate innovation processes. In this study case the common work between farmers and researcher allowed to improve many aspects of woodchip production across the whole chain.
- Innovation can be the result of a bottom up process, based on real needs of farmers and territory.
- This type of cooperation eases the access to financial support for innovation, otherwise unaffordable to the majority of farmers.

Critical points:

- Communication between the partners is sometimes complex.
- The management of the project, realized in the framework of RDP, is submitted to a very rigid administrative procedure, creating many problems and additional costs.

Advice/Recommendation

According to Lorenzo Vagaggini project manager and coordinator of the project, the following points are very important:

“ The cooperation must start with the scope of solving a concrete problem faced by the farmers or creating new opportunities. ”

“ The success of this project is due to the common work between farmers and researchers. In our case the work of researcher was based starting from the concrete situation of farmers, developing solutions to improve the production processes. ”

Queries/Questions

- What innovation(s) do you consider useful for your farming activity?
- Would you consider the potential to engage in research projects either individually or through a farming organisations/network you are involved in?
- Are you aware of any research projects or other innovative actions similar to the one described here?



Key Words

Cooperation Key Words

Association
Knowledge exchange
Other types of cooperation
Services

Farm Key Words

Forestry
Mountain area
Small/family farm(s)

Partners



Limerick Institute of Technology:
(Ireland)
www.lit.ie/rdi



Hof und Leben GmbH
(Germany)
www.hofundleben.de



Asociace
soukromého
zemědělství ČR

Asociace Soukromeho Zemedelstvi
Ceske Republiky (Czech Republic)
www.asz.cz



On Projects Advising SL
(Spain)
www.onprojects.es



Union de Agricultores y Ganaderos-
Jovenes Agricultores de Jaén (Spain)
www.coagjaen.es



Biotehniški Center Naklo
(Slovenia)
www.bc-naklo.si



Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori Toscana
(Italy)
www.ciatoscana.eu



European Landowners' Organisation
(Belgium)
www.europeanlandowners.org

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Project Website

www.cofarm-erasmus.eu



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