



Geographical scope:
Romania, Argeş County



Organisation name: Institute of Agricultural Economics, Romanian Academy (IEA-AR), Local Action Group Tinutul Posadelor (GAL-TP)



Number of participating farmers: 30-50 farms, with 8 focus farms selected for the case study



Total budget: MIXED Project
Funding: Horizon 2020

A bit more about the Case Study

The Romanian case study focuses on mixed farming and agroforestry systems (MiFAS), combining livestock, natural pastures and hayfields, trees, and agro-tourism. Led by the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Romanian Academy and the Local Action Group Tinutul Posadelor, it involves 30-50 small-scale farms (1-5 ha) practicing diverse systems, including dairy cattle, sheep, orchards, and agro-tourism.

The study addresses challenges like profitability, trust building, insertion in value chains and waste management by promoting association, short food supply chains, and an accessible web platform. Practical solutions include information workshops on funding opportunities, visits and experience sharing with other successful farmers' networks, and enhanced collaboration to foster sustainable growth.



Highlights



Development of the "Povești de Argeş" platform to promote local producers, products and traditions, and agro-tourism in the area



Integration of mixed farming and agroforestry to enhance farm resilience and sustainability



Initiatives include association and cooperation development, agro-tourism enhancement, and access to new funding opportunities

Website and project information

https://projects.au.dk/fileadmin/projects/mixed/PAs/New_PAs/MIXED_PAs_Romani_a_EN.pdf

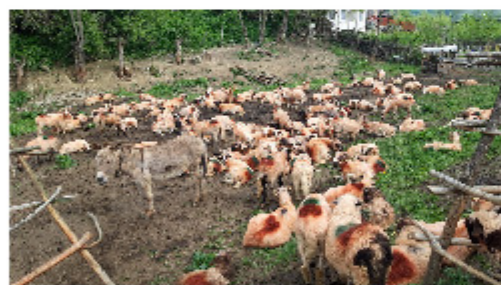
<https://projects.au.dk/mixed/>



Key outcomes and insights

Innovative features

The Romanian case study integrates livestock, orchards, natural pastures and hayfields, and agro-tourism, emphasizing collaboration / association models and short food supply chains. It uses shared facilities, the web platform promoting local products and services, field visits and experience sharing to foster collaboration and improve market access for small scale-farmers



Environmental and socio-economic benefits

The study supports sustainability through improved waste management, agroforestry, and resource sharing. It strengthens rural communities by boosting collaboration, market access, and agro-tourism, empowering farmers and enhancing resilience



Good practices & Lessons learned

Problem 1. Lack of collaboration among farmers

Farmers are hesitant to collaborate due to mistrust and a lack of appropriate associative structures



Problem 2. Limited market access for small farmers

Small farmers struggle to insert in local and regional value chains, and often receive low prices from intermediaries



Problem 3. Seasonal labor and workforce shortages

Many farms face local labor shortages, especially during peak seasons, affecting productivity and development opportunities



Problem 4. Difficulty in adapting to frequent changes in regulations and funding

Farmers are often unaware of available funding mechanisms or find them too complicated due to frequent changes and excessive bureaucracy



Solution 1. Facilitate and promote collaboration by organizing field visits to successful associations / cooperatives, showcasing collaboration benefits through best-practice examples Researchers, NGO-s, and local action groups will guide and support local associations formation

Solution 2. The MIXED project launched the "Povești de Argeş" web platform to promote local products, facilitate connections between farmers and consumers, as well as to ~~and~~ enhance visibility. Events and fairs to promote local products are also made known by the platform

Solution 3. Farmers are encouraged to diversify activities and schedule operations efficiently in their farms by exploring local workforce-sharing models within the local networks

Solution 4. Organize workshops and training sessions to inform farmers about new funding opportunities in the EU's Rural Development Programmes. Simplify access to funding through advisory services provided by local action groups and agricultural experts