

## PRACTICE ABSTRACT

# SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM: POLAND

## Traditional orchards - cultivating and saving old fruit varieties

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Traditional orchards and old fruit varieties are riches in themselves! They provide us with wonderful fruit, culinary value, beautify our home gardens and landscape, and provide habitats for many animals, thus contributing to the conservation of increasingly endangered species. It is therefore worth considering establishing a traditional orchard with old fruit varieties.

The first step in setting up an orchard is planning it. Where is the best place to plant the trees, at what distance from each other, in what arrangement? We only plant trees once in many years, so this first step requires a particularly high level of attention. In this case, it is better not to be self-taught and to seek the advice of an experienced planter. This will ensure that the seedlings go to the right place and enjoy good growing conditions. It is important, for example, to consider the position of the trees in relation to housing or outbuildings, as well as the protection of the trees from strong winds or frost.

The choice of varieties should be based on the end use of the fruit and the adaptation of the variety to the climatic conditions of the region. Let us ask ourselves, what do we want to use the fruit for? To eat fresh? For preserves? Or for drying? Each variety has its own properties, and depending on what we want to use the fruit for, we have a choice of different varieties.

In Poland, there are more than 500 varieties of apple, so there is plenty to choose from! There are orchard nurseries and associations which specialise in the cultivation of old fruit varieties and offer grafting scions or buds. But it is also worth going into the field and looking for old, sometimes abandoned fruit trees, from which scions and buds can also be taken and grafted onto younger rootstocks.





## ABOUT MIXED IN POLAND

In Poland MIXED is implemented by IUNG-PIB and FSK Juchowo and involving the land of FSK Juchowo where MIFAS (Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems) are practiced.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

MIXED (Multi-actor and transdisciplinary development of efficient and resilient MIXED farming and agroforestry systems), an EU-project, is supporting the development of European Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems (MiFAS) that are more efficient and resilient to climate changes.

<b>7M€</b> BUDGET	<b>19</b> PARTNERS	<b>10</b> COUNTRIES
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Agriculture in Poland is very differentiated, however as a whole it is subject to the processes of specialization and concentration. In areas with fertile soils (central and south-western part) an intensive, usually stockless, farming with high inputs of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers is practiced. The highest concentration of livestock (dairy cows and beef cattle) is in the north-eastern part of Poland, where soils are usually more sandy.



### MIXED partners from Poland:

