

NEWSLETTER

SOUTH BALTIC FARMS
AN ESSENTIAL PART OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS



Interreg
South Baltic



Co-funded by
the European Union



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WELCOME TO THE BIOSOLFARM PROJECT UPDATE!



BIOSOLFarm is a cross-border initiative transforming agriculture in the South Baltic region through smart, sustainable energy solutions. By promoting solar and other renewables, improving on-farm storage, and turning waste into valuable resources, the project boosts both energy and food security—especially for livestock farms.

At its core, BIOSOLFarm empowers small farmers to lead the green transition, strengthens local cooperation, raises awareness of sustainable practices, and increases the region's visibility in international discussions. Most importantly, it paves the way for resilient, climate-smart rural communities built on decentralized energy systems.

Launched in **September 2023** and running until **August 2026**, BIOSOLFarm is **co-financed by the Interreg South Baltic Programme** with a total budget of **€1.72 million**, including **€1.38 million** from the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**.



WEBINAR ONLINE: “EASING AGRO-PHOTOVOLTAICS FOR EUROPE – A CASE STUDY ON LITHUANIA”

On April 7th, 2025, BIOSOLFarm hosted the online webinar “*Easing Agro-Photovoltaics for Europe – A Case Study on Lithuania*,” organized by project partner LitMEA. The event brought together stakeholders to explore Lithuania's growing role in agro-photovoltaics.

Guest expert Tomas Aleknavičius from the Lithuanian Innovation Centre shared insights on renewable energy adoption in agriculture, covering land-use, environmental factors, and the role of wind, biogas, and hydrogen. The session ended with a dynamic Q&A, sparking valuable discussion on the future of sustainable energy in European farming.

FARMERS IN FOCUS: BIOSOLFARM CROSS-BORDER WEEK IN RIETAVAS

Farmers—especially those in dairy and cattle farming—benefitted directly from the *BIOSOLFarm: Green Energy in Agriculture – Innovations, Support, and Policy* event held in Rietavas, Lithuania. The cross-border week brought together farmers, policymakers, and renewable energy experts to exchange knowledge, explore innovations, and discuss practical steps toward sustainability and energy independence.



Participants engaged in presentations on funding opportunities, renewable energy support measures, and decarbonization pathways. They also took part in Q&A sessions, stakeholder discussions, and study visits to local farms already implementing green energy solutions. Real-world examples and hands-on learning helped answer key questions:

- What innovations support on-farm energy production and efficiency?
- How can farmers access funding?
- What policy changes are on the horizon?

The high level of farmer engagement—through active participation, questions, and detailed interest in materials—demonstrated the event's strong impact. Feedback highlighted the need for future cross-border exchanges, enabling farmers to experience successful practices firsthand and deepen their understanding of renewable integration in agriculture.

EXPERT INSIGHTS POWER BIOSOLFARM EVENT IN RIETAVAS

The BIOSOLFarm event in Rietavas featured key online contributions from national experts. Lithuania's Vice-Minister of Energy outlined current and upcoming renewable energy support measures tailored for farmers. A representative from the Ministry of Agriculture detailed funding opportunities under the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan, focusing on manure, biomass, and solar energy use for farm modernization. Additional highlights included insights on Lithuania's decarbonization strategies from the President of the Institute for Green Policy and World Bioenergy Association board member, as well as practical perspectives on solar energy and storage from UAB SoliTekas LT and UAB “Greenup.”



DURING THE STUDY VISIT, THE FOLLOWING FARMS WERE VISITED:

➤➤➤ GROWING WITH INNOVATION: ARTŪRAS JURKUS' FARM

Study Tour No 1 Artūro Jurkaus farm (Jankaičių k., Rietavo sav., Lithuania, 4th of March 2025)

Artūras Jurkus' farm is evolving from a traditional dairy operation into a value-added agricultural business. Managing 250 hectares and around 50 Holzsteiner cattle, the farm produces approximately 1,000 liters of milk daily, supplying supermarkets, online customers, and a local restaurant. Future plans include launching a farm shop and starting cheese production.

Sustainability is at the core of operations. The farm, consuming about 2 MWh of electricity per month—mainly for cooling—is preparing for a photovoltaic installation and is already collecting valuable data through a weather station operational since December 2024. Manure management and winter field applications further support eco-friendly practices.

Open to innovation and partnerships, Artūras is also keen to learn from similar farms abroad, with plans to visit Germany and explore collaborative opportunities.



➤➤➤ ORGANIC FARMING AND SOLAR POWER IN ACTION: JUSIŲ EKOLOGINIS FARM



Study Tour No2 Jusių ekologinis farm (Žarėnų g. 1, Lopaičiai, Rietavo sav., Lithuania, 4th of March 2025)

Jusių Ekologinis Farm, a 200-hectare organic farm led by a farmer who also serves on the municipal council, is a standout example of sustainability and community leadership. Alongside farming, the site hosts a guesthouse and a farm-to-table restaurant.

The farm has embraced renewable energy by expanding from an 8 kW rooftop PV system to a more efficient 27 kW ground-mounted installation. Now, it not only powers the farm but also feeds surplus electricity back into the grid—boosting the region's green energy mix. A true model of innovation in both agriculture and local governance.

➤➤➤ SMART DAIRY IN ACTION: TOMAS SKIERUS' HIGH-TECH FARM

Study Tour No3 Tomas Skierus farm (Plungės raj. sav., Lithuania, 5th of March 2025)

Tomas Skierus' farm is redefining modern dairy farming with a blend of scale, sustainability, and cutting-edge technology. Home to over 600 animals—300 of them milk-producing—it forms part of a cooperative supplying 1,300 tons of dairy products daily via pienas.lt.

Precision farming is at the core: six robotic milking units, real-time monitoring, and tailored feeding strategies drive productivity, with cows averaging 13,000–14,000 liters of milk annually. A 300 kW photovoltaic system and 60 kWh biogas plant supply renewable energy, while a 200 kW battery balances consumption.



The farm's innovation extends to hydroponic feed sprouting, where even CO₂ is reused—demonstrating a circular approach to sustainable agriculture. This is not just a dairy farm—it's a glimpse into the future of farming.

➤➤➤ BIOVAST: CIRCULAR INNOVATION FROM ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS



Study Tour No4 Biovast Rietavas (Žadvainių g. 25 Kalakutiškės k. 90304 Rietavas, Lithuania, 6th of March 2025)

BIOVAST in Rietavas is leading the way in circular bioeconomy by transforming slaughterhouse waste and deceased animals into valuable resources. With the capacity to process 60,000 tons of animal residues annually, the facility recovers fats for biodiesel and proteins for secondary materials through advanced mechanical and thermal treatments.

Sustainability is central: odorous air is incinerated at 850 °C to generate steam and heat water for operations—creating a closed-loop energy system. With a recent €3 million investment in a new digester, BIOVAST is scaling its impact while strengthening regional waste management.

D2.1 REPORT ON POLICY FRAMEWORKS IN SOUTH BALTIC STATES REGION, STAKEHOLDER NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

➤➤➤ D 2.1 SUMMARY: RENEWABLE ENERGY ADOPTION IN AGRICULTURE

Our latest D 2.1 Summary highlights how 271 farmers across Lithuania, Poland, and Germany are embracing renewable energy. Solar power stands out as the most popular solution, valued for its flexibility across farm sizes. While adoption trends vary by country, shared goals—cost savings, energy independence, and sustainability—are driving the transition across the South Baltic region.

The visual summary breaks down key challenges, technologies in use, and policy-level insights drawn from our BIOSOLFarm Report.



READ FULL D 2.1 SUMMARY

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