

The protection of agrobiodiversity in Social Ecological Institutes projects

native breeds of farm animals in the Kurpie region

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Social Ecological Institute

Founded in 1990 as a *non profit* society by people who are aware of environmental threats and appreciate the importance of local initiatives in sustainable development.

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Social Ecological Institute aims

- **pro-ecological activities**
- **animal and natural heritage conservation**
- **promotion of agrobiodiversity**
- **supporting sustainable development in rural areas**
- **promotion of regional and local products**
- **conducting and supporting ecological education**
- **promotion and protection of consumers' laws and interests**
- **developing international contacts and cooperation**

SEI Projects in 2000-2008

- **Non for GMO – campaign**
- **Kurpie model of agrobiodiversity – protection of genetic resources of farm animals and local species of plants and support of local community.**
- **Polish Action Against Pesticides**
- **Monastery garden – a center of biodiversity**
- **New polish orchards of old varieties**
- **Traditional rural flowers garden**
- **Local processing of agrobiodiversity**

Polish countryside and agriculture

- **rural areas - 96,4% of the country**
- **38,6% of the population lives in the countryside (14 mln. people).**
- **11% of total country population works as farmers**
- **88% of agricultural land is used by family farms**
- **9% by private companies**
- **4% by the state**
- **in 2007 - 1 700 000 family farms**
- **the average size of a farm - 10 ha**
- **33% farms are 2 to 5 ha**

Organic farming

- **in 2008 – 12000 farms registred in the organic agro enviromental programs (0,6%)**
- **1% of all farms in Poland should be organic by 2010**
- **the average size of the organic farm is 23 ha**

Biological diversity in Polish agriculture one of the richest in Europe.

- **favorable natural and socio-historical conditions**
- **predominance of small, family farms with extensive and diverse production.**
- **conditions to bring back many almost extinct indigenous breeds of farm animals and local plant varieties and enable their protection *in situ*.**

The Kurpie model of biodiversity in agriculture

- **protection of genetic resources**
- **native breeds of farm animals**
- **old varieties of cultivated plants**
- **support of local community**



Location of the project. The Kurpie region.

Why we choose this region?

Agriculture at the Kurpie region maintains conditions which make it possible to bring back many almost extinct indigenous breeds of farm animals and local plant varieties and enable their protection in situ. The predominance of small, family farms with extensive and diverse production still exists.

Proximity to the big city – Warsaw, creates opportunities for selling local, organic products.



Aims and realization

- **reintroduction and restitution of indigenous animal breeds of farm animals and local plant varieties on organic farms.**
- **ecological education, training and workshops, publication of leaflets and brochures - awareness of ecological matters, with particular emphasis on biodiversity in farming and ecodevelopment.**
- **practical use of scientific research in favour of sustainable development and ecological farming – cooperation with scientists, using their input, converting their scientific research into practice.**
- **development of food processing and marketing of local products**
- **promote specific products from organic farms.**

Success

Introduction into Polish farms (brought from gene banks) of the following breeds of animals included into gene's stock programme:

- Green legged Partridge hen**
- Polish Red cattle,**
- Polish Small horse,**
- Huculski horse,**
- Olkuska sheep,**
- northern breeds of geese,**
- Miniduck and Polish Peking duck P33,**
- Zlotnicka and Pulawska pigs**
- nursery of young fruit trees of old varieties have been set up**
- old varieties of cultivated plants and potatoes are grown on farmers' fields**



10 000 Greenlegged Partridge hen





Eggs became a flagship product, promoting not only the green-legged chicken breed but also organic products and the need to protect biodiversity in agriculture. After one year it appeared that there are many customers who do prefer these eggs for their special taste and they are ready to pay more for an egg that is actually smaller than the average. An information leaflet and a distinctive logo were additional instruments that helped to advertise the product.

**2000 northern
breeds of geese**



**1000 Ducks
pekin P33
minikaczka**





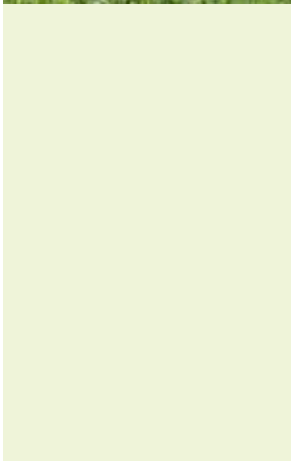
27 Polish Red cattle



30 Huculski horse and Polish Small horse



100 Zlotnicka pigs



86 sheeps wrzosówka and olkuska



Success

In 2008 ca 100 farmers from the region nord-est Mazovien are participating in the projects.

**In Rożan comune there are already 30 polish red cows.
In SIE new project we will buy 25 more.**

The Sudowia dairy is interested - a specific product for the Warsaw market.

Local processing

The products coming from the agrobiodiversity

- In Kruszewo – the drying room for the fruits from the traditional orchards**
- In Rososz local slaughterhouse for old native breeds of poultry, geese, ducks**
- In Lutobrok local food processing factory for meat of zlotnicka pig: smoked sausages, hams, pork loin. The smokehouse is made from alder tree wood**









SEI cooperates closely with

- **public administration**
- **public insitutions**
- **universities, institutes, and research centers**
- **schools**
- **local self-governement**
- **rural women and farmers individually**
- **organisations, groups, associations**
- **Ngo's**
- **producers**
- **agricultural advisory centers**

Workshops and trainings





A landscape photograph showing a field of tall, golden-brown grass in the foreground. In the middle ground, there are several green trees of varying sizes. The background features a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Thank you for your attention