



 Mihai Horvath- family farm



Mihai Horvath



100 hectares



improvement of grassland management

INNOVATIVE FARMER, INTEGRATING AGRICULTURE, AGRITOURISM, AND COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mihai Horvath, a farmer from the village of Paglisa, Cluj County is an emblematic figure in the agricultural landscape of the region. With an entrepreneurial vision, Mihai manages an area of 100 hectares of land, of which 40 are dedicated to arable farming and 60 are designated for permanent grazing, where he raises 40 dairy cows. While his main activity focuses on agriculture and animal husbandry, Mihai has found innovative ways to diversify income and bring prosperity to his community. Through an agritourism guesthouse (<https://pensiunearafila.ro/>), he opens the doors to authentic experiences in the countryside for tourists who want to enjoy nature and local traditions. Apart from accommodation, the agritourism guesthouse also offers traditional dishes, prepared with fresh ingredients directly from the farm, and authentic moments such as participation in agricultural activities. Also, for horse riding enthusiasts, it offers a unique experience with well-kept horses and scenic trails to explore the surroundings in an active and fun way. Membership of the Somes-Aries Cooperative (<https://somesaries.ro/>) gives him stability and access to larger markets for the milk sales. Also, through the cooperative, he can purchase agricultural inputs at

competitive prices, which increases his efficiency and profitability. Annually he makes investments in the abandoned pastures by cutting the woody vegetation (approximately 3 Ha/Year; aprox. 1000 EUR/Ha).

The problem is that long-term leases cannot be made, and the clearance effort is large, with a period of non productivity of about five years. Depending on the coverage of woody vegetation, the work is done manually in the first phase, after which mechanized intervention can be carried out. Additionally, the resulting woody residues are difficult to transport/use. The clearings are used for summer grazing of the young cattle.

With a holistic and community-oriented approach, Mihai Horvath not only builds his own agricultural business, but also makes his mark in the sustainable development of his village and the promotion of authentic rural tourism. He is an inspirational example of a local entrepreneur combining tradition with innovation to create a prosperous future for himself and those around him.

Author: Chiciudean Daniel, USAMVCN

Farmer Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jk-l820Jtgc>



Photo credit: photos generated from farmer interview - University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca and AgroTransilvania Cluster



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the European Commission can be held responsible for them.