

## Promilleafgiftsfonden for landbrug

### Polish CASE AREA – Janusz Dabrowski of CDR as process responsible.

#### Leadership “Institutional structure” scale

Overall policy framework having crucial importance for delivery of the Waterdrive project objectives in Poland
National and EU policies in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Perceiving of water management in agriculture in wider policy context related to climate change and environment protection,</li> <li>b) Streamline water management in agriculture with leading EU policy – supporting innovations, including organizational innovations,</li> <li>c) Emphasize growing role of agricultural advisory services as a vehicle for effective policy delivery in agriculture and rural areas.</li> </ul>

#### National level

Review of roles from point of view of water management in agriculture relevant for the Waterdrive project in the pilot area

<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused on agricultural aspects of water management (i.e. limit negative impact of agricultural activities for water quality),</li> <li>• Growing awareness of drought as one of main challenges for agricultural production</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall responsibility for water management, including agricultural utilisation of water resources</li> <li>• Provide financial resources for maintenance and building of new facilities related to water.</li> </ul>
<p>Centrum Doradztwa Rolniczego /Agricultural Advisory Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main training centre for agricultural advisors,</li> <li>• Responsible for working out training curricula,</li> <li>• Needs identification in view of future roles for agriculture advisory services,</li> <li>• Proposals for changes/amendments submitted to Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development for approval and, subsequently implementation.</li> </ul>	<p>Polskie Wody/Polish Waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall management of water resources, including for agriculture purposes,</li> <li>• Management of investment programmes related to water management,</li> <li>• Polskie Wody operates through network of regional offices covering the whole area of Poland</li> </ul>
<p>Regional Agricultural Advisory Services (16, one in each of Polish regions/voivodships)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of direct advisory services for farming communities and rural inhabitants</li> <li>• Services are delivered on the basis of network of local offices covering the whole area of every region/voivodship.</li> </ul>	
<p>Sectoral research institutes operating within the framework of Ministry of Agriculture and</p>	

Rural Development covering all important aspects of agriculture and farming practice. Many of them are directly involved in research focused on water management in agriculture, i.e. Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation (ongoing research/reports on level of droughts in Poland).	
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### Regional/local level

Review of roles from point of water management in agriculture relevant for the Waterdrive project in the pilot area

Local governments' actors	Other relevant actors
Regional local government (Marshall Office of Łódź Region) - key actor in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing institutional incentives for cooperation between all relevant actors at local level,</li> <li>• Potential source of funding activities considered at local level,</li> </ul>	Polskie Wody/Polish Waters regional office responsible for the Bzura river catchment,
Powiat/county level local government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very limited role in planning activities at local powiat/county level,</li> <li>• Substantial potential role as facilitator of voluntary bottom-up activities involving all relevant actors at powiat/county level.</li> </ul>	Regional Agriculture Advisory Centre of the Łódź Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local advisor allocated to work for the Waterdrive project to test new type of agricultural advisory services</li> </ul>
Gmina/community level local government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited role in planning activities at local powiat/county level – for the time being even these limited capacities are not fully utilised,</li> <li>• Substantial potential role as facilitator of voluntary bottom-up activities involving all relevant actors at gmina/community level.</li> </ul>	Spółki wodne/Water companies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal bodies consisting of landowners, both farmers and legal bodies, operating along river line,</li> <li>• Spółki wodne are established and monitored in terms of operating within binding legal regulations by head of powiat/county office – starosta.</li> </ul>

### **The GAP's in the "Institutional structure"**

*Fragmentation of competencies between all involved actors at national level leading to lack of clear strategy and policy relating to water management in agriculture and rural areas. Each actor at national level is focused on the specific sectoral terms of references (i.e. implementing regulations concerning farming activities). This approach does not fully meeting requirements for the holistic approach covering all issues regarding water management in agriculture, including challenge on climate changes and its impact on agriculture activities.*

*This institutional gap seems to indicate wider issue – cognitive gap. In the nutshell of the existing conceptual frameworks in polices area are not mirroring scale of challenges (not only in agriculture) for water management relating to contradicting incentives – long terms problems connected with*

*climate change/environment production versus socially and economically relevant interests of various stakeholders (farmers, businesses, part of rural population forced to limiting farming production activities due to i.e. environment protection).*

*This cognitive gap is reflected at level of mode of operations of agricultural advisors – their inability to provide farmers proper advice on the possibilities of economically viable solution aimed at limiting negative impact on farmers' activities, inter alia, climate changes and ensuring long term steady economy/operation of farm as a business unit.*

*According to analysis there is a lack of sufficient public support/grant for investments aimed at water related activities. Although it shall be emphasized that Waterdrive project is bringing new ideas and shared results of new testing activities.*

### **New services to fill in the GAP's**

*To develop and test in pilot area new type of agricultural advisory service the following assumptions were determinate:*

- a) To take as a starting point existing skills of agricultural advisors,*
- b) To move forward their skills/knowledge to provide advice taking into account new topics related to i.e. more effective ways of water retention, more effective utilisation of existing drainage system etc.,*
- c) To develop proper training materials for agricultural advisors,*
- d) To embed new type of advisory service in existing institutional framework in Poland in terms of all type cooperation, common activities with all relevant actors (i.e. Polskie Wody, local governments, water companies). One of the larger risk in case of new type of services is to locate them in institutional and social emptiness limited to one sector – agricultural.*

### **Activities in Waterdrive by November 2019**

- 1. Due to limited human resources and relatively short period of the Waterdrive project delivery decision was taken to not take action at national and regional level.*
- 2. Main focus of the Waterdrive case area – Kutno county*
- 3. Main instrument as driving force for the whole process at local/case area is new type of agricultural advisory services.*
- 4. Platform – case area as focal point for communication and facilitating activities involving all relevant actors (farmers, local planners) leading to some joint action/s.*
- 5. As a result of testing of new type of advisory services CDR will design framework training programme concerning this type of service to be submitted to Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as proposal for new curriculum at national level.*
- 6. Subjects for new type of agricultural advisory services will focus on main challenge in case area – prevent drought and minimize their effect.*

### **Activities in the Waterdrive project in the reporting period December 2019-March 2020**

- 1. Due to particular requirements of new type of agricultural advisory service development two approaches have been taken: a) work on specific measure adjusted to local needs of the pilot*

*case area carried out by one of the Polish consortium member; b) wider approach taken by CDR to develop new type of services meeting national needs, not only case area. All further description are focused on activities related to point b).*

- 2. Consultation process with representatives of the water companies from the case area has led to decision to arrange two meeting attended by around 50-60 farmers at the end of March – beginning of April. The objectives of both meetings are to have in-depth discussion regarding detailed scope of activities for new type of agricultural advisory services: agroenvironmental and water management at farm level advisor.*
- 3. The main challenge in designing of new type advisory services is to define scope of activities mirroring expectation/needs of all Polish regions, not only the Waterdrive case area. To reach this objective CDR has established under the project Team of external experts to assist in working out detailed scope of activities for new type of agricultural advisors covering the whole Poland. The team consists of representatives of research institutes, agricultural advisory services and Polish Water Company. The first meeting of the Team is planned for end of March/beginning of April.*
- 4. Agricultural advisors appointed to test new advisory services in the case area has been nominated within the structure of the Łódź Regional Agricultural Advisory Centre.*
- 5. Additional training is planned for representatives of other 15 regional agricultural advisory centres across Poland.*

#### *Changes introduced as a result of restrictions caused by the coronavirus epidemic*

- 1. Consultation process – apply digital tools to communicate with farmers to avoid organisation of large public meetings.*
- 2. Team working on scope of new type of agricultural advisory centres will carry out according to plan via digital communication channels.*
- 3. Pilot area agricultural advisor testing new type of services will continue work through digital communication channels.*
- 4. Additional training for advisors from other 15 regional agricultural advisory centres has been postponed.*