

English summary – SFC specialist report

Ecotechnology for Short Food Chain (SFC) systems for the purposes of the Campaign ‘Eat Wisely. Know what you Eat! (Challenges and solutions in related to deploying eco-technologies in SFC systems in Poland).

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The phrase ‘Ecotechnology for SFCs’ requires unpacking. There is not agreed definition as to what constitutes ecotechnology. But an useful approach is rooted in social ecology thinking, which on the one hand draws attention to inequalities in society, and on the other, envisages harmony of human society with nature. For the moment, an ecotechnology vision seems to be too futuristic, as it assumes eco-technologies will help us make use of the renewable resources of nature – energy from the sun and wind, water flow in rivers, temperature differences in the Earth’s surface and using the rich hydrogen resources that surround us as fuel. The aspiration is that these ecotechnologies will provide resource for an eco-society that is pollution free and in which wastes are recycled.

In this report, we do not look too far into the future, but focus on what is currently available and on solutions that are currently being developed with the aim of making them widely available. The development of SFC systems is rooted in a range of decentralised activities. A big opportunity for these lies in development of sharing economy models, which enable ‘small players’ to access ecotechnologies, which had been impossible to access to date. Sharing economy solutions enable use of the latest technological solutions, which would be beyond the reach of individual users in a system. To some degree, such approaches lessen the advantage of large, wealthy corporations, which on account of their size and access to resources allows them to overcome development barriers in the market place which cannot be overcome by other smaller players. Ecotechnologies is in large part about supplying energy, especially through the use of renewable energies.

The Government’s Strategy for Responsible Development (SOR) foresees wide-ranging activities in this area. In accordance with the SOR, a modernised energy sector is basic condition for assuring Poland’s energy security and that the economy is competitive and effective. To meet the goal formulated in this way, the need is for developing innovative solutions for modernisation and expansion of networks for producing, transferring and distributing energy, also at the level of households and farms. As a result, activities focus on investing, modernising and searching for new energy sources, including renewables, are aimed at bringing about stability, diversity and continuity of energy supply, with special emphasis on in-country energy resources, such as geothermal energy and biomass).

Ecotechnologies provide a somewhat new approach to producing, assuring balance between the imperatives of increasing production and production effectiveness and the natural environment. From the perspective of SFC systems it is important to see ecotechnologies in two ways. On the one hand, the SFC itself can be seen as an ecotechnology. This is because shortening the supply chain from the end consumer drives support for natural and decentralised nature-friendly methods of food production. The report uses biomass as an example to show that the SFC system can organised using appropriate logistical and financial instruments as an effective organisational structure for making use of the latest eco-technologies. In the context of the SFC system, it is possible and recommended to use the latest technological solutions to improve the effectiveness of production and make more cost effective agri-food processing that gives a premium to the taste values and natural character of the products being brought to market.

Operacja: Wiedz i Mądrze Jedz: Ogólnopolska kampania na rzecz Krótkich Łąćuchów dostaw Żywności.

Operation: Eat Well. Know what you Eat! Campaign on Short Food Chain supply systems

Realizacja/Implementation: Fundacja Rozwoju Podhala w ramach umowy/agreement no nr KSOW/2/2018/038.



„Europejski Fundusz Rolny na rzecz Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich: Europa inwestująca w obszary wiejskie”.

Operacja współfinansowana ze środków Unii Europejskiej w ramach Schematu II Pomocy Technicznej

„Krajowa Sieć Obszarów Wiejskich” Programu Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich na lata 2014–2020