

ORGANIC FARM ŽNIDERŠIČ



GENERAL INFORMATION

Location of farm	Slovenia
Name of the farmer	Toni žnideršič
Size of farm	80 ha (6000 m ² horticulture, 600 m ² polytunnel, the rest is meadow)
Permanent staff	2
Main products of farm	Production of milk and meat, cereals. The farm is also engaged in forestry and viticulture.



CURRENT REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES ON THE FARM

Farmland cultivated with RA practices	all crops are grown using regenerative methods of agriculture.
Crops produced with RA practices	All of them
Duration of using RA practices	Since 2003

Description of RA practices used in the farm

The soil is cultivated without plowing with minimal cultivation (circular harrows and a special loosener with narrow legs) and sowing with the help of a comb. In the fields, they use the sowing of winter crops for greening and also for summer ground cover. In the rotation, they use clover, corn, triticale, barley, wheat, millet, grass clover mixture, the varieties are selected according to the type of field. Given that they are an organic farm, they also fight against weeds with the crop rotation. They would point out that their fields are covered with crops throughout the year, which they use for animal feed. The underground parts, however, serve beneficially for humus and life in the soil. All the organic fertilizers produced on the farm are used on their own land, thereby enriching the soil. On the farm, all crops are grown using regenerative methods of agriculture, which are being developed in such a way that they will interfere with the soil even less in the coming years. Some areas of the farm have been cultivated in this way for 20 years.

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STARTING AND MOTIVATION BEHIND REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

<p>Main motivation: » <i>Observing the fields, we realized that it is not a good idea to interfere with the soil in the summer months if we want to ensure good emergence and growth of plants.</i> «</p>	
<p>Learning the RA farming practices</p>	<p>They are looking for new knowledge, practices and they also learn from their own experience. They have been training from various articles and lately also through conversations with members of conservation agriculture.</p>
<p>Did the farmer receive training?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Did the farmer receive financial support?</p>	<p>No</p>



RESULTS OF REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Benefits of using RA practices

Over the years, very positive effects on the soil have been observed, but the soil slowly regenerates and when it reaches a certain level, they can take a step into the next process. . *We also found that there is less weather impact on the soil if there are plant residues on the surface.* The economic benefit is in lower production costs and, given the improvement of the quality of the land, also a reduction in the use of fertilizers and phytopharmaceuticals. They only use domestic manure and slurry. The environmental benefit is increased humus in the soil, less soil erosion. In their case, organic production of quality and also quantitatively satisfactory crops.



Obstacles of using RA practices

The development of mechanization is slow, sometimes not correct, there is not enough expert advice, there are no available varieties on the market, a long process of transition from conventional to conservation. Good observation of arable areas throughout the year is important and also some persistence.

Is the farmer happy overall with RA? Yes	
Does the farmer intend to continue RA?	Yes
Does the farmer intend to introduce changes in RA methods or crops?	Changes are always necessary and they will continue to develop new techniques.



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