



AgroRES newsletter gathers up-to-date information on project activities and results and provides examples of the use of renewable energies in the agricultural and rural sector.

## Good practices

In this newsletter we will look at successful and inspiring practices on renewable energy use and production found from our partner regions. These examples, ranging from on-farm or other RE investments to projects and national financing programmes, have impacted positively on agricultural production and rural development in different parts of Europe.

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## Small Biogas Demonstration Programme



The deployment of biogas at farm-scale has proved challenging in Ireland. There are many barriers to overcome, including knowledge-gaps, and availability of cost-effective solutions at smaller scale, availability of feedstocks and use for the biogas. The SBDP project aims to stimulate the deployment of innovative on-farm small-scale biogas production by providing support and capital contribution to three demonstration projects.

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## Micro-trigeneration system

A consortium of companies and the University of Extremadura in Spain are developing a prototype of a biomass-solar microgenerator that uses biomass from pruning and agro-industrial waste as the main fuel. The scalable and portable system will produce power, heating and cooling for agro-food industries located in remote areas. It is created in TRIBAR project that is co-financed by the European

Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

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## Financing for photovoltaic installations



Over 50,000 households in Romania are not connected to national electricity grid. To decrease the use of fossil fuels in these houses, the Romanian state launched a financing programme for installation of photovoltaic systems, with a total funding of 46 million €. Currently 115 isolated households have received a grant to support installation of solar panels.

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## Community-owned energy

[Devon County Council](#) in the UK has supported the growth of community energy sector through funding for support services and grants. Currently the county has 23

community energy organisations which is more than in any other county in the UK. These organisations give local communities greater control over how energy is produced and used. So far, they have implemented 63 projects which have generated 17,431 MWh of renewable energy.

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## Floating solar power plant

The Irrigation Community of Merida has one of the biggest floating photovoltaic plants in Spain, covering a four-hectare area. Placing floating solar panels in lakes and reservoirs is a good solution for land-scarce areas and it limits water evaporation.

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## Energy self-sufficient farm

Kuittila farm in North Karelia, Finland, has invested in a wood-fuelled CHP plant that generates around 150 MWh of electricity and 375 MWh of heat a year. Due to the investment, the farm is nearly energy independent.

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## On-farm solar energy



Solar photovoltaic systems have a long lifespan, they are easy to use, do not require a lot of maintenance and can reduce overall electricity expenses. These were some of the reasons why Alava dairy farm in North Karelia, Finland, decided to invest in a PV system that

covers one fourth of the farm's electricity needs.

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## Biomass boiler for a school

The School Complex in Ostrów Lubelski, Poland, replaced their traditional heat source with a biomass boiler that is fuelled with surplus biomass from agricultural production, such as cereal straw. The boiler will increase

the energy security of the inhabitants of the Lubartów county. The investment may also improve the financial situation of local farmers interested in growing energy crops and developing other biomass surpluses.

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## AgroRES activities

In addition to collecting and evaluating good practices, the project partners have collaborated actively with regional stakeholders. In the last six months, several stakeholder group meetings have been organised to discuss regional objectives in the project (see articles below). The project also held its [second steering committee meeting](#) in April. Due to Covid-19 it was organised online. The pandemic also forced the project to postpone its second Interregional Event which was planned to be held in North Karelia, Finland, at the end of April.



- [Regional Council of North Karelia](#), FI, to launch a study on decentralised energy production in agriculture. [Read more.](#)
- [AGENEX](#), ES, organised 2nd stakeholder group meeting to promote the use of RES in Extremadura. [Read more.](#)
- Local stakeholder group met for the first time in [Lubelskie Voivodeship](#), PL. [Read more.](#)

## News from partner regions

- AgroRES project's stakeholder, Wieser Consult, offers solutions to obtain energy from residual agricultural biomass. [Read more.](#)
- Project in Cornwall, UK, is testing technology and a business model to show how an energy independent farm could go beyond the demonstrator phase. [Read more.](#)
- Irrigation communities in Spain will soon access energy efficiency grants to reduce their electricity consumption by 20 %. [Read more.](#)
- "Give light" campaign helped Romanian households facing hardships by offering them free electricity. [Read more.](#)

## Coming next...

- [ARSIAL](#) (IT) hosts an online stakeholder group meeting on 15th July.
- Devon County Council (UK) organises a free **webinar on slurry bit gas collection** on 17th July 2020. [Register here](#).
- [Institute of Technology, Sligo](#) (IE) to organise a site visit for local stakeholders to the Polecat Springs Group Water Scheme. [Read more](#).

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