

Establishment of Pilot Farms Affiliated to Training Centres

The reduction of hunger existing worldwide requires an integrated approach that needs close cooperation between public and private stakeholders in the agricultural sector. In essence, it involves evolution towards site-specific and efficient agriculture and promotion of functional rural areas. In this regard, pilot farms and affiliated training centres are core elements of this approach.

Introduction

Despite positive developments in many countries, the agricultural sector still faces various obstacles to development. Key hurdles are notably lack of knowledge and experiences on sustainable, locally adapted and environment-friendly cultivation and production systems, inadequate training of professionals and managers, lack of modern agricultural technology, inadequate access to seeds, to name a few.



Field days in Ukraine. Source: ADFZ

Pilot farms have a significant role to play in tackling these issues. They serve as demonstration facilities where state of the art technologies, modern inputs, efficient and locally

IAK Agrar Consulting GmbH is an independent agricultural consulting company working both for public clients (Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture/BMEL, GIZ, World Bank, EU and many others) and private enterprises in Germany and abroad since 1981.

adapted cultivation and production methods are displayed and tested. Moreover, the establishment of new business contacts between the producers, manufacturers of means of production and potential customers is a valuable synergy effect. In collaboration with research institutions, opportunities are provided to carry out practical tests e. g. for the diversification of agriculture, development of crop protection strategies, optimisation of animal nutrition and husbandry etc. At a later stage, it is expected that the pilot farm's model is replicated in other regions of the country by always paying attention to the local environmental and social conditions.

Going hand in hand with pilot farms, training centres should offer training courses so that the local agricultural staff becomes familiar with the newest innovations showcased at the pilot farm. Technology and knowledge transfer are key to ensuring the implementation of a sustainable and modern agriculture.

Our services in international cooperation and commercial consulting

Since 2018 IAK is approved as training provider and consultant on iMOVE, the export initiative Basic and Advanced Training of the German Ministry of Education and Research.

Whether in Germany or elsewhere, for public or private clients: IAK provides its expertise in the following areas:

- Concept and strategy development, establishment & operation of pilot farms & practice-oriented training centres
- Comprehensive and bankable feasibility studies
- Support in the search for funding
- Support in the choice of location, plant and animal production as well as technical equipment and building
- Transfer of technical knowledge in the areas of a. o. production technology, crop planning and management, and mechanisation strategy



Demonstration plot in Zambia. Source: AKTC

- Business consulting incl. investment planning, breakeven and cash flow analyses
- Consulting on marketing of agricultural products
- Management and personnel consultancy
- Field demonstrations to present the advantages of advanced production equipment, seeds and cultivation methods under practical conditions
- Support in setting up a network of the pilot farm with institutions, cooperatives, research institutes and associations of agricultural economy
- Education and trainings of experts and managers through seminars, experts exchange and international study trips
- Training needs analysis and elaboration of adapted curricula
- Organisation of field days and field excursions



Training centre at DEULA-Nienburg. Source: DEULA-Nienburg GmbH

Selected projects of IAK

Setting up of a German-Ukrainian Agricultural Demonstration and Training Centre (ADFZ), Ukraine, BMEL, 2016-18, € 1.6 mill. Partners: AFC Agriculture and Finance Consultants GmbH and DEULA-Nienburg GmbH

Establishment of a recognised agricultural training institution for vocational school teachers, trainers as well as mechanical engineers, technical and managerial staff

- Training needs analysis and development of needs-oriented training plans and curricula
- Plant production and use of agricultural machinery on the 46-hectare-big demonstration field
- Hands-on training in modern and sustainable agricultural production, incl. in soil cultivation, fertilization, storage of cereals and modern machinery

German-Zambian Agricultural Knowledge and Training Centre (AKTC), Zambia, BMEL, 2014-20, € 3.5 mill. Partners: AFC (Leader), DEULA-Nienburg and DLG International GmbH

Establishment and running of a training and knowledge centre targeting farmers, agricultural technicians and agricultural service providers

- Training needs analysis and development of related training plans and curricula
- Demonstration of modern equipment and cultivation methods and field trials on 60-80 ha arable land
- Hands-on trainings in farm planning and management, locally adapted and modern agricultural technology and sustainable production methods in the field of plant production (soya, wheat and potatoes)

Planning of a pilot farm with an affiliated training centre, Angola, public-private project, 2014-15

Development of an integrated concept for the pilot farm and training centre including

- Diversification of agricultural production in farming and livestock production activities
- Elaboration of teaching and learning materials for thematic blocks such as milk, meat, swine, egg, plant, storage and processing, and training courses

German-Mongolian Cooperation Project Sustainable Agriculture, Mongolia, BMEL, 2013-16, € 1.3 mill.

Partners: AFC, DEULA-Nienburg and DLG

Support to agricultural enterprises and institutions on implementing technically, economically and ecologically best fit practices to grow grain and potatoes

- Setting up of two pilot farms
- Supervision and evaluation of field trials and demonstrations as well as dissemination of the results
- Education and training incl. in the use of modern inputs

Planning of a model dairy farm complex Agstafa, Azerbaijan, private investor, 2009-11, € 90,000

Planning and implementation of a dairy farm complex for 2.400 cows including calf raising, own dairy with a capacity of 50 t per day and cattle fattening

- Supervision and coordination of the planning stage (business and investments, land use for forage production, dairy and cattle production management) and management assistance
- Training for the local technical and managerial staff

Cooperation partners



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