



Ltd "Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre"

Farmers advisory system in Latvia



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Contents:

- Introduction to Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre;
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Brief history of LRATC

Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre was established on 1-st of February 1991

1991 – 1997	state budgetary institution
1997 – 2004	non-profit organization
2004 – present	limited liability company

Ownership structure today:

1% of share capital is owned by the Farmers' Federation of Latvia

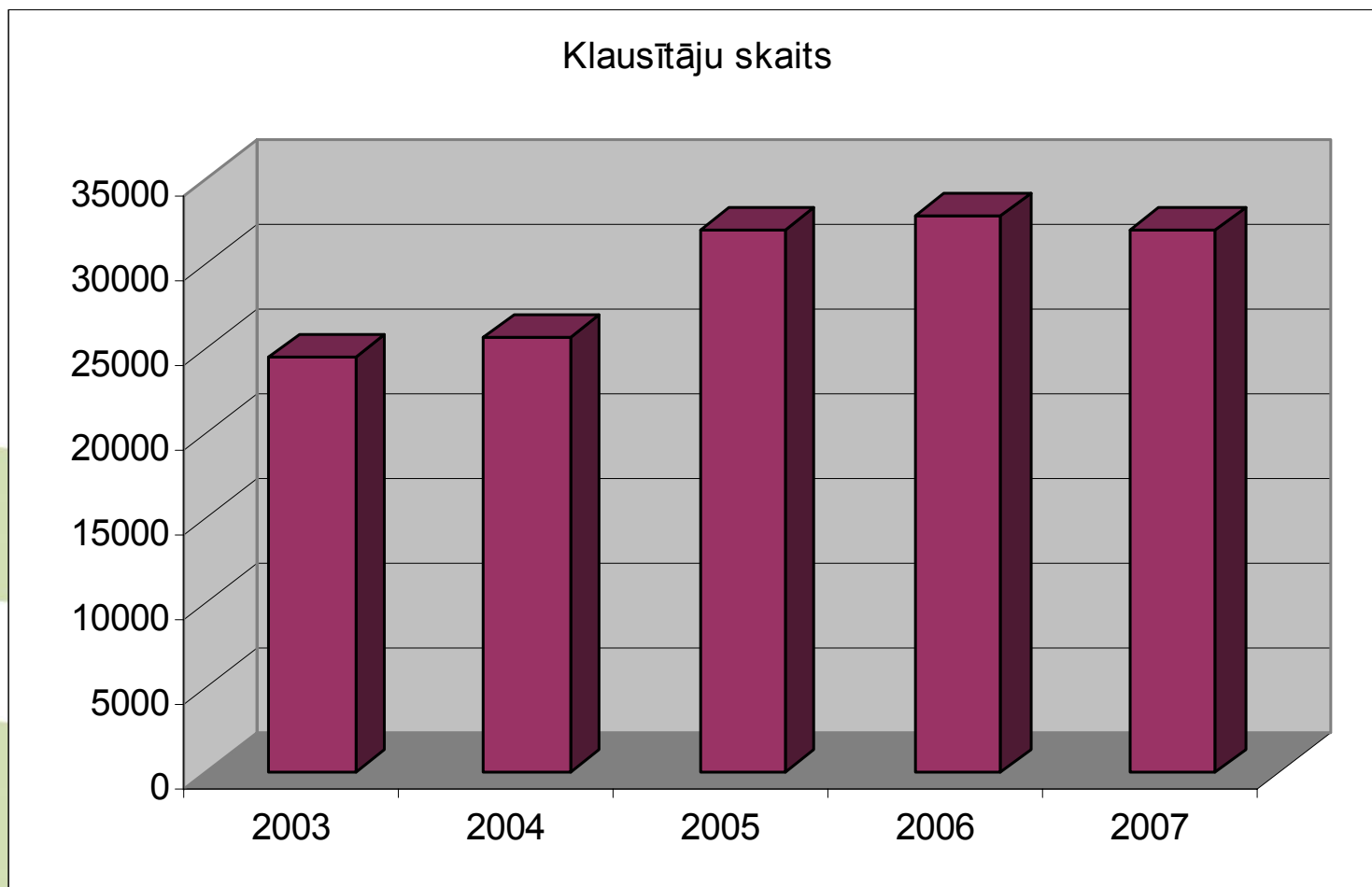
99% of share capital is owned by the State represented by Ministry of Agriculture

27 offices all around Latvia



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Number of trainees in different educational activities





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Setting up of CC advisory system (1)

- SPD priority 4 measure 4.4 activity 4.4.6 project "Setting up of Farm advisory system";
- Project duration: 19.09.2006. - 30.06.2007.;
- General objective of the project:
 - To promote the development of rural and agricultural activities, foster the restructuring and competitiveness of agricultural sector as well as to ensure environmental protection and development;
- Direct aim of the project:
 - To increase the capacity of LRATC in order to adjust the farming practices in accordance with European Community standards towards nature protection, animal hygiene and welfare and good agricultural practice by developing computer software for farm management, planning of agri- environmental activities and livestock feed necessity and to provide farmers with information necessary for development of economically sustainable agricultural holdings.



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Setting up of CC advisory system (2)

- Project results in accordance with EC Regulation No. 1782/2003 (Cross Compliance – CC) :
 - Development of Farm Advisors work methodology;
 - Development further education methodology for advisors training and carrying out the training of advisors;
 - Preparation of farm visit Check list;
 - Development of computer software in order to increase the efficiency of farming, purchasing of equipment necessary for advisors work;
 - A network of 78 practice farms set up for identification of CC requirements;
 - 104 new working places created within LRATC for provision of CC services;
 - Farmers survey on perception of CC;
 - Integration of other member states experience towards CC service development and administration (Finland, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania).



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Setting up of CC advisory system (3)

- Main conclusions after the project:
 - In Latvia the public understanding of CC requirements and related services is insufficient and CC advisory is not seen as a service, public also lacks understanding regarding the necessity of CC implementation (according the survey carried out by SKDS);
 - Farm Advisors work methodology developed within the project clearly states that individual advisors involved in provision of CC services must have higher education in crop farming, animal husbandry, veterinary or agricultural economics and at least 2 years of professional working experience. For the moment the number of such advisors is very low in Latvia.



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Cross Compliance advisory activities of LRATC (1)

Professional training programme for Cross Compliance advisors

Without agricultural education	With agricultural education
Secondary or higher education	Professional secondary in agriculture or higher education in agriculture
156 hour programme	40 hour programme



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Cross Compliance advisory activities of LRATC (2)

Information on CC requirements for farmers

- Training of Rural development specialists on CC requirements:
 - 5h training program developed;
 - 8 presentations developed;
 - 36 Rural development specialists of LRATC trained;
 - information channeled to ~500 rural development specialists in municipalities;
- Information on CC published in monthly bulletin "Rural page" (5'600 copies/month);
- Updating and publishing of informative material on CC for farmers (2'000 copies in 2007; 20'000 copies in 2008);
- Publications in professional magazines (AgroPols, Saimnieks.LV);
- Provision of CC information in various training courses (6 h programme in animal husbandry, 6 h programme in crop farming).



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Cross Compliance advisory activities of LRATC (3)

Updating and development of CC advisors work methodology

- Updating and development of CC farm visit check list in cooperation with control institutions;
- Development of CC advisors work handbook (explanations of CC requirements and related legislation);
- Demonstrations and field trials related to practical explanation of CC requirements:
 - Identification of reasons for low quality milk and evaluation of efficiency for different improvement measures;
 - Assessing nitrogen fertilizer norms for crops by setting up field trials in research institutions for winter wheat, rye-wheat, oat, maize, grasses and vegetables.



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Other advisors (1)

- Another advisory companies allowed to enter FAS:
 - Providing consultations on all fields of CC
 - 3 yrs of experience in consultations
 - advisors should have higher education or special training (max 30% of advisors) in all fields of CC



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Other advisors (2)

- To enter FAS advisory company should apply to Paying Agency (PA)
- PA issues certificate
- PA keeps a register with all data on FAS
- Database is available online



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Thank you for your attention!

