The Norwegian agricultural Policy – Rural Development

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Overview

• Some facts about Norwegian agriculture

• Norwegian Agricultural policies in general

• Special view on rural development programmes
The conditions for production

- Much lower yields than other countries in Europe
- Long winter season, animals kept indoors 150 – 250 days
- Small scale structure, average 23 ha of land
- General high cost country

Norwegian Agricultural Land

3% of total land area, Mostly grass

Mainly livestock farming

Mainly grain production

- Agricultural Land (3 %)
- Forest Land
- Mountains, Glaciers etc
Facts on agriculture in Norway

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of farms</td>
<td>53 000</td>
<td>41 200</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural land (million ha)</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>-5%</td>
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<td>Ha pr farm</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>+21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk production in million litre</td>
<td>1 526</td>
<td>1 510</td>
<td>-1%</td>
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<td>Milk producers</td>
<td>15 800</td>
<td>8 400</td>
<td>-47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turnover in the agricultural food processing industry (bill. NOK)</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<td>Number of employees in the food processing industry</td>
<td>42 000</td>
<td>37 500</td>
<td>-11%</td>
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Goals for the Norwegian Agricultural policy

- Food security and food safety
- Agriculture in all parts of the country
- Increased wealth creation
- Sustainable agriculture, including lower greenhouse gas emissions
General policy instruments

- Border protection, market regulation systems, target price system
- Economic instruments
  - budgetary support, levies and taxes
- Laws and regulations
- Research, advice and communication

Example: Differentiated support measures for dairy cows - to facilitate agriculture all over the country
Challenges – in a rural development perspective

- Effectiveness vs agricultural activity in all parts of the country
- Recruitment
- Competent practitioners
- Employment
- Innovation and knowledge


- Main discussion: How to trigger the potential to increase entrepreneurship and business developments related to the recourses on the farm as a whole
- Goal: employment and increased economical profit through entrepreneurship
- Possibilities just as big for small farms as for larger farms.
- Emphasizes areas like local food, agro-tourism, green care and bioenergy
Business development, recruitment and capacity building

Business development
• Several national programmes are designed to stimulate innovation and establishment of alternative businesses on farms and alternative employment in rural areas
  • Investment support,
  • Program for new businesses based on the resources from agriculture (and reindeer husbandry) (ex. local food, agro-tourism, green care) Emphasise business development and growth and employment
  • Program for bioenergy and technology development

Recruitment and capacity building
• "The adult agronomist" – all counties
• Norwegian agricultural advisory services – all regions

Regional rural development programs
• Regionally tailored schemes in each county
• Based on an analysis of challenges in each region
• Developed in cooperation with farmer's organisations at regional level, Innovation Norway and other regional central actors.
• Consist of three strategies
  – Regional Business Development Program
  – Regional Environmental Program (cultural landscape, pollution to water and air)
  – Forest and Climate Program
Destination Røros: cooperation, business development, branding -> rural development

Culture

Food

Agriculture

Nature, experiences

Accommodation

Food processing industry

Thank you for your attention