PA #23 BioRural success stories: Latvia’s State Forest by LVM

The Joint Stock Company "Latvia's State Forests" (LVM) was established in October 1999 with a primary focus on forestry as its principal revenue stream. It is governed by a council and board representing Latvia's Ministry of Agriculture. Beyond forestry, LVM engages in hunting, recreation, producing selected seeds and seedlings, and marketing subsoil resources. Recognized as a leading forestry company, LVM prioritizes technological innovation and sustainable practice to their operations.

LVM's improved forest management involves consistent problem-solving and operational efficiency improvements. Particularly in response to workforce availability challenges in the forest planting sector, LVM introduced, for example planting robots, marking each seedling with GPS for planning and surveillance. Thus, recognizing issues of young tree protection from forest animals triggering damages across hectares, and potential costs, LVM explores solutions with efficiency as a key consideration, and all aspects of operations are evaluated for sustainable development in collaboration with universities and cross-border learning.

The innovation process and circular business model at LVM led to tree protection methods using sheep wool. The development of the method involves collaboration with local stakeholder recycling sheared wool into a forest protection product, aligning supply and demand.

Therefore, when LVM is addressing workforce challenges in the sustainable forest sector the consistent innovation experimentation attempt and collaboration with researcher and experts is a commitment for practical uses, such as considering using sheep wool for tree protection. Accordingly, when considering LVM at the forefront of new practices, its replicability is combined between experimenting with technological devices and biobased solution together to validate the potential of environmentally friendly protection and production.

Latvia's State Forests (LVM) takes proactive measures, by being engaged in cross-border learning and by fostering knowledge exchange in the forestry community. This commitment extends industry-wide, advocating for the adoption of alternatives practices as standards.

They seek eco-friendly innovations, exploring e.g. sheep wool as a solution as the current plastic method poses environmental and labor issues. Research and collaboration refine the process and emphasize continuous experimentation.