

## CMMS ventures into alfalfa fields, with DIMO Maint MX!

« The LUZEAL cooperative, located in north-eastern France, has switched from paper to DIMO Maint MX for managing its preventive maintenance. A point in its favour for its ISO 50001 and FCA certifications. »

Alexandre Lelaurin, Site Manager

### Presentation of the cooperative

LUZEAL is an **agricultural cooperative specialised in harvesting and processing alfalfa** grown to feed cattle and horses. It comprises **5 production sites** in the Champagne Ardennes region of France, employing **210 equivalent full-time staff**. The cooperative focuses on **three core activities**:

- **harvesting, using agricultural machinery, such as reapers and silage harvesters,**
- **road transport to carry the alfalfa to the plants,**
- **production of alfalfa pellets and bales**

The marketing of dehydrated products is handled by its subsidiary, Desialis. LUZEAL also processes beet pulp, grape marc and wood pellets for both industrial and domestic stoves. The cooperative extends over **21,000 hectares for a total annual production of 400,000**

**400.1 tons** covering the complete product range. Alfalfa work is seasonal, beginning at the end of April and finishing at the end of October, whilst maintenance and servicing take place throughout the year, with increased maintenance occurring during the winter stoppage period.

### Before CMMS: the age of paper

Site Manager Alexandre Lelaurin explained that their **maintenance know-how was mainly confined to paper and spreadsheets**, *"Each site had its own method of organisation: Excel spreadsheets for logging maintenance, for example, and handwritten notes for technical documentation... Sources of information differed widely."*

Having obtained ISO 50001 certification for its energy management system and FCA certification for the quality of its animal feed, problems of traceability emerged. *"The management board decided to **standardise and structure the maintenance department, which employs around 60 people**", he explained.* This led to the choice of a **suitable CMMS that enabled the cooperative to take a technological leap forward, thanks especially to the 100% Cloud solution.**

### The choice of multi-site maintenance management with DIMO Maint MX

Employees were involved in the final choice of a **high-performance multi-site solution**. Key specification criteria required the system to be:

- **easy to use,**
- **user-friendly,**



#### FOCUS

**Company:** Luzéal

**Sector:** agricultural cooperative specialised in harvesting alfalfa

#### Key figures:

- **Turnover:** €59,208,400
- **Workforce:** 210 employees
- **60 employees** dedicated to maintenance
- **5 production sites**
- **21,000 hectares**
- **400,000 tons produced annually**

#### Solution:

DIMO Maint MX





- **upscalable to the purchasing and stock management module,**
- **potentially interfaced with the IT system in place.**

## Employee involvement: a prerequisite for success

Alexandre Lelaurin's experience was a determining factor in this project: he had already used and installed various CMMS and had even sold one system! In his opinion, **it is a good idea for a maintenance organisation to have already been implemented within the company and for the staff to be used to the tools and practices, especially as regards work orders. This enables the company to successfully anticipate the learning curve and focus on employee acceptance and adoption.** He added, *"Transparency in everyday use is important for employees. The involvement of the management board in the project is crucial, as is the timing of implementation, bearing in mind that the cooperative is working full out 9 months of the year".*

## Reasoned implementation

Implementation, installation and training were all carried out by a DIMO Maint-certified integrator partner. **To optimise costs, configuration was conducted at the same time as training.** Roll-out was organised in four stages:

- Stage 1: **the most basic use and configuration of the software: a work order is created and filled in, without necessarily entering the parts used or time spent.**
- Stage 2: **work orders are created and information is entered** (who did what, time spent, parts used).
- Stage 3: **introduction of work order requests**
- Stage 4: **development of the preventive component.**

Around twenty users (supervisors) followed the training session and were granted access to the solution. Initially, only heads of departments and managers can enter information into the CMMS.

## Conclusion - simplified and optimised preventive maintenance

Now, LUZEAL mainly uses the system for work orders and requests. Not everything has been entered, but as Alexandre Lelaurin explained, the benefits for preventative maintenance management are clear at the Pontfaverger site, *"We have created ranges of prevention, which greatly simplifies the daily tasks of the maintenance manager in this area."* The future may see tablet computers being used in the fields. He concludes, *"The fact we announced the introduction of a CMMS solution was seen as a benefit during an ISO 50 001 audit. We are planning to upscale the solution to stock management and purchasing within the next two or three years."*

To sum up, DIMO Maint MX has enabled LUZEAL to benefit from a user-friendly web solution that makes computing tasks easy for users, even those not experienced in using information technology. This means they can devote themselves fully to their core business, namely maintenance.



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