

An aerial photograph of an agricultural cooperative facility. The image shows several large, cylindrical metal silos with conical roofs, some of which are connected by a network of pipes and ladders. There are also several large, rectangular buildings with flat roofs, some of which appear to be storage or processing units. The facility is surrounded by greenery and trees. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white box containing text.

Quality as the best reference.

Vysočina Agricultural Cooperative, Želiv, Czech Republic.

In the rural area of the Czech Republic, about 100 km southeast of Prague in Želiv, agriculture has traditionally played a central role. The sparsely populated region of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands has a cool climate and therefore offers ideal conditions for growing grain and oil crops. Here, not far from the Želivka River, lies the “Vysočina” agricultural cooperative in Želiv. Since 2012, a grain collection point from Bühler has proven its worth there. During the harvest season, trucks and tractors deliver around 60 tons of grain per hour, i.e. around 600 to 800 tons per day.

The demand for domestically produced agricultural raw materials is high in the Czech Republic, mainly among customers in the processing industry – barley for malting plants, wheat for mills. This is also true for the agricultural cooperative “Vysočina”, since large-scale exports are not on the agenda. Therefore, the cooperative decided to invest in a central grain collection plant, despite its limited resources.

“We’ve been looking for the right site for years, because we need a storage capacity of 7,000 tons and a hall for drying and cleaning of the grain. But we were limited both in terms of the available land and our financial resources.

Vlastimil Karafiat, Manager, Vysočina

”



The construction of industrial facilities and grain handling systems was made more challenging by the geographical characteristics of the low mountain range – the site is located on a hill above a river.

Established in 1976, the “Vysočina” agricultural cooperative is today a diverse operation that not only offers agricultural production, but also a wide range of services for this region. In 1992, two agricultural cooperatives joined together to form the “Vysočina” agricultural cooperative, Želiv. With around 3,060 hectares of arable land and pastures, it is one of the largest producing companies in the Czech Republic and plays a central role in the purchase, processing, storage and sale of grain for the region’s farmers.



New technology for practical progress.

Prior to the start of construction in 2011, the cooperative did not have a central grain storage. Although several warehouses were available at different locations, they lacked modern conveying equipment or processing systems.

This meant that consistently high quality could not be guaranteed. It was therefore a big decision for the customer – as well as a major step forward and a considerable investment – to have a new silo plant built on a green field at the site. The focus was on reliability and economy.

“ *Thanks to our central plant, we now need far fewer transport routes. Now we can clean, dry and store our products in the same place. This allows us to wait for higher sale prices, a real added value for us.* **”**

Vlastimil Karafiat, Manager, Vysočina

Having decided to go ahead with the investment and finally found a suitable site, the “Vysočina” agricultural cooperative scoured the market and evaluated suitable suppliers of cleaning machines, dryers and conveyors, as well as silo plants. In addition to simple operation, they were looking for reliable machinery that could handle the required volumes. The cooperative had not used a dryer before and so could not draw on prior experience here.

Proven project constellation.

Bühler is an established full-range supplier for its own machines and a complete solution provider in multiple industries in the Czech Republic. Bühler relies on its proven project constellation – as an international company, it operates in domestic markets in partnership with regional and local companies and suppliers.

This creates a powerful combination of international project expertise and European mechanical engineering with regional networking and familiarity with the market and customers.

Bühler Area Sales Manager Radek Novak describes the company’s close collaboration with the project partner Agroing: “We’ve been working with our partner Agroing for over 10 years. We have collaborated flexibly on a total solution, whereby we deliver the machines and Agroing, as a reseller, takes care of the assembly.” While Radek Novak is the local Bühler contact, Agroing also handles the service side and the annual inspections of the current plant in Želiv.



Selected for the best quality – Bühler machines.

In Želiv, great importance was placed on easy operation of the most reliable machines, according to Mr. Vlastimil Karafiat: “We had a shortlist of various companies and ultimately made quality our top priority. We chose Bühler from among six bids because of the high quality of its machines. The solutions put forward by Bühler and their on-site consultation were what convinced us.” Radek Novak expressed satisfaction with this clear success and points to some important advantages of the complete solution from Bühler and Agroing:

“ *We had a tailor-made solution for our customer. And, compared to our competitors, our individual machines such as dryers, cleaners and conveyors were simply more robust.* **”**

Radek Novak, Area Sales Manager, Bühler

The construction phase from the end of 2011 to mid-2012 brought some new challenges. Due to the proposed location of the facility on a steep slope, pylons were drilled 10 meters below ground level to lay the concrete foundations for the seven planned silos. Due to the geographical nature of the region, only deliveries by lorry or tractor-trailer combination are possible – these can enter directly into the reception hopper after weighing on the continuous scale at the entrance.



Added value through modern machines.



Today, the plant's cleaners, dryers and dedusting systems all run smoothly. The five hillside silos serve as shiny metallic landmarks for the region's farmers. In the TAS 152 cleaner, up to 60 tons of wheat and oilseed rape are processed every hour. During the harvest season, the dryer processes up to 20 tons per hour while the dedusting system removes 150m³ per min.

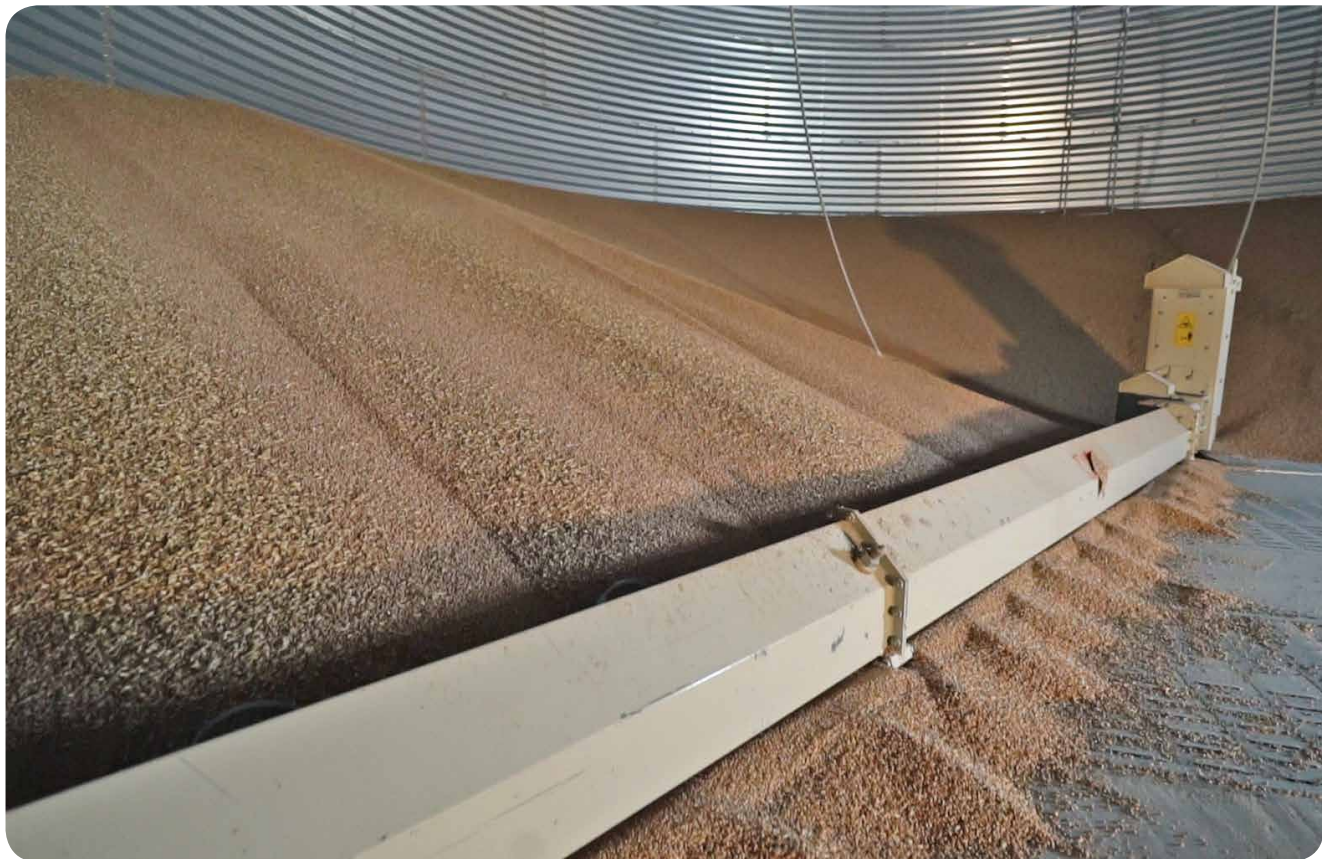
For the "Vysočina" agricultural cooperative in Želiv, the modern plant means a significant increase in productivity and quality – plant manager Mr. Vlastimil Karafiát is highly satisfied with his decision to choose the complete solution from Bühler and Agroing:

“ Our Bühler system has been running smoothly for seven years and is in very good condition. We are very satisfied with our partnership with Bühler. **”**

Vlastimil Karafiát, Manager, Vysočina

The project at a glance.

	Type	Capacity/ performance
Storage	7 silos	6,800 t
Intake	Truck	up to 120 t/h
Processing technology	TAS 152	60 t/h
Drying technology	STKL6-07/02 wet wheat from 19% to 15% moisture	20 t/h
Conveying technology	Chain conveyors, bucket elevators	60 t/h
Dedusting technology	Cyclone No. 140	150 m ³ /min
Loading	Truck	up to 120 t/h



Bühler GmbH

DE-92339 Beilngries

Germany

T +49 8461 701 0

F +49 8461 701 133

grain-quality-supply@buhlergroup.com

www.buhlergroup.com/gq

GQ_DF_Success_Story_Zeliv_EN_14265_01