

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

BMP Case Study

Overview

Name: Croatia: Agricultural Pollution Control Project

Location/Terrain: Croatia: Danube River basin

Crop(s): Various crops and livestock

Nutrient(s): Nutrient overloading from fertilizers, especially nitrates

Rationale: Reduce nutrient discharge from agricultural source to surface and ground water bodies.



Issue(s) of Concern/Challenges:

The heavy use of fertilizers, soil erosion and compaction, poor maintenance of soil organic matter, small numbers of households/farms familiar with good agricultural practices and no subsidies for environmentally friendly farmers has led to nutrient discharges infiltrating into surface and ground water bodies.

Practice Objectives:

To significantly increase the use of environmentally friendly practices by farmers in the Danube River basin in order to reduce nutrient discharge

Practice Description:

There was a three part strategy:

1. *Mitigating nutrient loads to water bodies from point source pollution* – This was established through the formation of a nitrates mitigation investment fund and through the development and implementation of a water and soil monitoring program.
2. *Development and Promotion Agri-Environmental Measures* – Farmers in selected counties will be advised and trained on the most cost-effective technologies for complying with the Nitrates Directives.
3. *Public Awareness and Replication Strategy* – The project will carry out a county and national public campaign on the benefits of the project activities for replication, with emphasis on food agricultural practices and the promotion of improved rural sanitation.

Outcomes:

- 24 applications for the investment fund
- More than 40 farmers in active preparation for the funds

Key Successes:

- Improved interpretation of the CAGP provisions to ensure farmers' application of remedial nutrient-reduction

measures

- Introduced the EU principles of project financing and measures to secure funding from non-bank resources
- Established a day visit program to producers
- Honored International Danube Basin and Black Sea protection conventions.

Significance:

The project established cooperation with local communities on the GAP education information dissemination.

.....

Data/Graphs:

Investments:

Sub-Grant (GEF): USD 2.66 million

Good, services, consultants' services and training (GEF): USD 2.25 million

Recurrent costs (GEF): USD 90,000

Local co-financing: USD 1.1 million

Global Environment-associated Ibrd Fund: USD 13.9 million

TOTAL: USD 20 million

.....



For more information, please contact Chuck Chaitovitz at chuck.chaitovitz@gef.org or visit www.gpa.unep.org/index.php/global-partnership-on-nutrient-management.