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 Sear protection conventions.

**Significance:**

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

**Data/Graphs:**

**Investments:**

Sub-Grant (GEF)s: 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.