INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Romania: Agricultural Pollution Control Project

GEFID#: 1159, GEF Agency Project ID#:, Project Status: Active

1- The percentage of households with livestock in the project area using village manure storage, household bunkers and segregating waste materials reached 54.4% compared to the baseline of 0%, and end-of-project target value of 45%.
2- Over the course of the project the area under environmentally friendly practices increased from 0% to 33.9% exceeding the target value of 30%.
3- Estimations based on land under environment friendly agricultural practices indicated a decrease in nutrient discharge into surface and ground waters of about 15 % for N and 27% for P in 2006. These values exceed the target value of 10% for 2006.

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PROJECT GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVE:

The global environment objective of the Project was to increase the use of agricultural practices that benefit the environment and lead to reduced nutrient discharge from agricultural sources in Romania to the Danube River and the Black Sea.

KEY INDICATORS:

(i) Percentage of households with livestock in project area adopting improved manure handling facilities - targeted to move from baseline of zero to 45% by 2006 and 65% by 2010;
(ii) Percentage cropped area coming under nutrient management systems including crop rotation, crop nutrient management with soil testing, and use of organic manure - targeted to reach 30% by 2006 and 65% by 2010;
(iii) Percentage of cropped area employing environment-friendly practices - target of 65% by 2010; and
(iv) Trends in water quality indicators at designated sites - flow of nitrogen and phosphate to Danube River to be reduced by 10% by 2006.

RESULTS:

The project's results provide strong indication that the project's objective to reduce over the long-term the discharge of nutrients and other agricultural pollutants into the Danube River and Black Sea through integrated land and water management of the Calarasi region and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources in two agricultural polders has been achieved. This can be illustrated through the values achieved for the four key performance indicators:

Indicator 1: *Percentage of households with livestock in project area adopting improved manure handling facilities*. As proved by the social survey carried out in early 2007, the percentage of households with livestock in the project area using village manure storage, household bunkers and segregating waste materials reached 54.4% compared to the baseline of 0%, and end-of-project target value of 45%.

Indicator 2: *Percentage cropped area coming under nutrient management systems including crop rotation, crop nutrient management with soil testing, and use of organic manure*. The same survey found that the percentage of area under nutrient management systems including crop rotation, crop nutrient management with soil testing, and use of organic manures was 34%, compared to the baseline of 1%, and the end-of-project target value of 30%.

Indicator 3: *Percentage of cropped area employing environment-friendly practices*. Over the course of the project the area under environmentally friendly practices increased from 0% to 33.9% exceeding the target value of 30%.

Indicator 4: *Trends in water quality indicators at designated sites*. The water monitoring program found a decreasing trend in N and P in the water bodies of the project region that drain into the Danube River. In other words the trend in water quality was found to be *positive*. Estimations based on land under environment friendly agricultural practices indicated a decrease in nutrient discharge into surface and ground waters of about 15 % for N and 27% for P in 2006. These values exceed the target value of 10% for 2006.

The results captured by indicators no. 1-3 point to rural Calarasi communities' increased ability to keep in check expected nutrient releases following from a likely intensification of agriculture as a result of Romania's participation in the EU CAP. In addition to the above indicators, the project's success in achieving implementation and enforcement capacity and skills to develop project proposals for EU funding, especially at the local levels, in raising public awareness in rural areas of proper practices to reduce environmental pollution, and strengthening the communication between communities and their mayoralties should be highlighted.

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