



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Poland Rural Environmental Protection Project

GEFID#: 531, GEF Agency Project ID#: P050660; Project Status: Completed



1. Reduction in nutrient loads to local soil and water bodies in project area: Installation of manure management systems, including construction of manure platforms, adequate manure storage facilities and training in optimum application of manure as fertilizers as well as implementation of environmentally friendly agricultural practices such as shrub and tree planting led to a significant decrease in nutrient loads entering soil and water bodies from agricultural sources.

2. Increased awareness of environmental issues among farmers: A broad public awareness program was undertaken to widen understanding of the importance of agriculture and environment among farmers in the project area which led to a significant increase in the percentage of farmers implementing environmentally friendly agricultural practices, including nutrient reduction measures. The project trained agri-environmental advisors in good agricultural practices who subsequently worked with local farmers to demonstrate the benefits of environmentally responsible management on farms. This significantly increased awareness of the nexus between agriculture and environment among farmers and resulted in an increased uptake of project activities among Poland's farming community.

Angela Armstrong
aarmstrong@worldbank.org
ECA GEF Regional Coordinator, World Bank

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The development objective of the project was to significantly increase the prevalence of environmentally friendly practices among eligible farms in target project areas. The global environmental goal was to demonstrate effective mechanisms for improving environmental practices in agriculture by reducing nutrients entering the Baltic Sea from agriculture in Poland.

RESULTS: PROCESS

INDICATOR: *Increased awareness of environmental issues among farmers.* The public awareness activities under the project resulted in large numbers of farmers understanding the environmental consequences of unsustainable agricultural practices, including the impacts of nutrient discharge to soil and water bodies. Surveys undertaken at time of project completion indicated that more than 90% of farmers in the project area were aware of the need for implementing environmentally friendly agricultural practices as well as the financial impacts of such practices. This awareness also grew in the neighboring areas that did not participate in the project to about 55%.

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

INDICATOR: *Increased number of farmers undertaking investments to control nutrient pollution from agriculture.* Over 730 farms, covering 17,819 ha of land, implemented measures to control nutrient discharges to local soil and water bodies. The project supported the construction of 952 tanks for liquid animal waste storage and 652 manure pads.

RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

INDICATOR#1: *Improved water quality through N and P reductions in project area.* Through the introduction of well-designed tanks for manure storage, manure pads and properly –sized manure storage tanks, nitrogen run-off into the ground was reduced substantially by participating farms. Nutrient loss reductions in the project area were estimated at about 81,863 kilograms by project end.