



INVESTMENT

Total USD 9,000

PROJECT DURATION

July 2004 – July 2006

NUTRIENT CHALLENGES

- Animal waste deposited directly on soil near aquatic sources (small rivers, lakes, streams etc.)
- Chemical deposits destroyed and abandoned without monitoring
- Inefficient agricultural practices, lack of specialists in plant protection, and insufficient places to prepare chemical substances
- Violation of crop rotation provisions and of agro-technical procedures for soil processing; infringement of the structure of sowed terrains; soil over-processing; hydro and wind erosion

EARLY NUTRIENT BMP “WINS”

- Partnerships between local authorities, farmers and environmental NGOs have increased the responsibility of farmers, the general public and local authorities
- Training of farmers, involving the application of best agricultural practices on four experimental/ demonstration plots

DANUBE REGION

Danube Regional Project Small Grants: The Reduction of Nutrient Pollution in the Danube Basin through the Promotion and Use of Good Agricultural Practices

Project Summary and Scope

The project focused on increasing cooperation between local authorities in Moldova, farmers, local inhabitants, and environmental and agricultural NGOs to promote the use of best agricultural practices that have reduced or prevented nutrient and toxic pollution from the agricultural sector.

The project was implemented in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Food of Falesti County Council; the authorities of the villages of Pruteni, Horesti and Taxobeni; the Selectia Centre for Ecological Investigations, Balti; the NGO Prut 2000, Pruteni; and the NGO Euroconcept from the town of Botosani.

Project implementation comprised an awareness campaign and the selection of local farmers for participation in the training programme to promote and test best practices on their land. On completion of the selection process, collaboration contracts were signed between the NGOs and farmers. Four training workshops were organised with the participation of experts in the field.

Best Practices

Activities carried out under the project have contributed to the minimisation of the nutrient load in the Danube hydrographic basin. Best practices include:

- **Best agricultural practice training** — A group of 25 farmers were trained in the use of non-polluting agricultural practices and the elimination of pesticides and other toxic substances on their private land.
- **Community involvement** — Farmers, youngsters, students, the general public and agricultural landowners were involved in the rehabilitation of the environment.



- **Community partnerships** — As a result of the project activities, implemented in partnership with local authorities, farmers and environmental NGOs, greater responsibility was given to farmers, agricultural landowners, the general public and local councils. The achievements serve as an example for other communities.

Benefits

As a result of the project:

- 25 farmers stopped using, or reduced their use of, fertilisers and other toxic substances in agricultural production.
- 3 chemical storage units in the villages of Horesti, Obreja Veche and Glingeni were eliminated and the sites remediated.
- 8 unauthorised dumpsites were cleared from the bank of the river Prut.
- 2,000 trees were planted.

Additional Environmental Benefits

- Environmental awareness was raised among the rural population.
- The local authorities and inhabitants were given greater responsibility for environmental protection and for improving water quality through the elimination of unauthorised dumpsites.
- Levels of awareness and responsibility increased among farmers, civil society and authorities.
- The capacities of farmers to promote and apply best agricultural practices were strengthened.
- Experience and knowledge were shared regarding the practical application of environmentally oriented agricultural practices.

Key BMP Indicators

- At the end of the project, laboratory analyses indicated an approximately 20 percent improvement in water quality in the rivers Camenca and Sovatul Mare.
- 12 unauthorised dumpsites situated close to water sources that flow into the Danube basin were eliminated.
- Information leaflets were distributed directly to over 15,000 people from the 12 communities located on the left bank of the river Prut, and over 30,000 citizens were affected indirectly by the implementation of the project.

Further Information

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About the Living Water Exchange

The Living Water Exchange, a GEF/UNDP project promoting nutrient reduction best practices in Central and Eastern Europe, will share information and accelerate the replication of the most appropriate nutrient reduction practices developed from GEF and other investments in the region.

For more information, please visit <http://nutrient-bestpractices.iwlearn.org/> or email Chuck Chaitovitz chuck@gef.org

