



CROATIA

Agricultural Pollution Control Project

Project Summary and Scope

The project aims to significantly increase the use of environmentally friendly agricultural practices by farmers in the Danube River basin in order to reduce nutrient discharge from agricultural sources to surface and ground water bodies. Strategies include (i) manure management; (ii) implementing a national agri-environment policy (Code of Good Agricultural Practices) and a national water protection policy, particularly concerning nitrates; (iii) carrying out a public awareness campaign on the benefits of project activities with the aim of replicating them at national and regional levels; and (iv) efficient project management.

- Part 1: Mitigating nutrient loads to water bodies from point-source pollution** — The project promotes sustainable manure management practices encompassing the (a) establishment of a nitrates mitigation investment fund within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development (MAFRD) to finance sub-grants in the counties of Osiječko-Baranjska, Vukovarsko-Srijemska, and Varaždinska; and (b) development and implementation of a water and soil monitoring programme to assess the reduction of nutrient loads to surface and ground waters from subprojects, including impact analysis.
- Part 2: Development and Promotion Agri-Environment Measures** — Under the CAPCP, farmers will be advised and trained in the counties of Osiječko-Baranjska, Vukovarsko-Srijemska, and Varaždinska on the most cost-effective technologies for complying with the Nitrates Directive. This will involve (a) the development and dissemination of the Code of Good Agriculture Practices (CGAP) through media campaigns, distribution of brochures, agricultural periodicals and journals and the adaptation and interpretation of the CGAP for the main farming systems; (b) development of an applied research programme as a result of implementing a multi-location, four-year trial for the three most economically important crop types in the counties and (c) the implementation of a CGAP demonstration programme to promote the adoption and implementation of environmentally friendly agricultural practices.
- Part 3: Public Awareness and Replication Strategy** — The project will carry out a county and nationwide public information campaign on the benefits of the project activities for replication, with particular emphasis on the implementation of good agricultural practices and the promotion of improved rural sanitation in the project counties. This will involve (a) organisation of national and regional workshops, field trips, and study tours for sharing knowledge and skills; (b) creating a website on management of nitrate pollution from agricultural sources with links to the websites of the MAFRD, CAEI and MEPPPC; and (c) knowledge sharing through project staff participation and attendance in a variety of GEF and International conferences and workshops and other nitrates management training on an international level.



INVESTMENT

Sub-Grant (GEF)s	USD 2.66 million
Goods, 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

PROJECT DURATION

2007 to 2012

NUTRIENT CHALLENGES

- heavy use of fertilisers
- soil erosion and compaction
- maintenance of soil organic matter
- small numbers of households/farms familiar with good agricultural practices
- no subsidies for environmental friendly farmers

EARLY NUTRIENT BMP "WINS"

- 24 applications for the investment fund received
- 13 investments contracted and under construction and two investments completed and paid
- more than 40 farmers in the active preparation for the funds
- established cooperation with local communities on the GAP education and information dissemination



Best Practices

- Establishment of a USD 2.66 million Nitrates Mitigation Investment Fund to finance 75% of manure storage costs
- Education and help to the farmers to establish sustainable production and to use available Investment funds;
- A CGAP training and demonstration programme to promote nutrient management planning and demonstrate cover crop technologies
- Development and promotion of agri-environment measures (two surveys of producers were conducted and analysed; cooperation was established with the local community for education and information efforts of the farmers; work was done to help poultry producers in Varaždin counties; joint educational activities were carried out with the the energy institute Hrvoje Požar; cooperatio was established with two agriculture high schools in project counties, including a joint initiative between APCP, a local community and a commercial bank to help APCP applicants complete on farm investments; a water analysis programme began in the pilot counties);
- Adaptation of good agricultural practices to the main farming systems;
- Dissemination of the Code of Good Agriculture Practice (85,000 copies of a brochure were distributed to producers; 20 types of educational and promotional materials — 82,000 pieces in all — were designed and distributed; more than 160 seminars, workshops and media appearances were held); and
- Improvement of knowledge and skills.

Other key successes

- Improved interpretation of the CAGP provisions to ensure farmers' application of remedial nutrient-reduction measures;
- Introduction to EU principles of project financing and measures to secure funding from non-bank resources;
- Establishment of a programme of day-to-day information visits to producers — more than 1,200 thus far; and
- Honoring of international Danube Basin and Black Sea protection conventions.

Key BMP indicators

- At least 40% of the farming population in the project areas adopting preventive and remedial measures to reduce nutrient discharges
- At least 10% reduction of nutrient discharge into surface and groundwater in the three project regions
- Increased national awareness of the link between local action and the impact on nutrient loads
- Number of successful applications for the investment fund
- Number of investments completed
- Reduced nutrient pollution through improved policies
- Number of piesometar wells on farms installed
- Hectares of demonstration fields
- Number of "Good agricultural practice" brochures and educational and promotional materials distributed
- Number of seminars, workshops and media appearances held

For more information

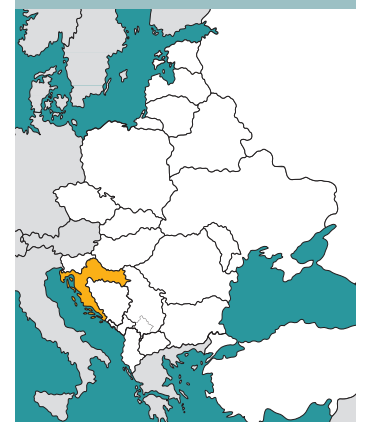
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About the Living Water Exchange

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