



INVESTMENT

Danube Regional Project
USD 36,376

PROJECT DURATION

2005 to 2006

NUTRIENT CHALLENGES

- Poor agricultural practices related to the application and storage of both mineral and organic fertilizers.
- Storage and use of pesticides, especially in private agricultural households.
- Over nutrient enrichment of surface and ground waters in rural and agricultural regions (eutrophication).
- Loss of biodiversity, decrease of water quality, a negative impact on human health

EARLY NUTRIENT BMP "WINS"

- Preparing farmers and agriculture experts to implement GAP
- Observation of EU requirements and standards
- Advising on application of GAPs and EU Water Framework Directive
- Providing information about DRP and regional agro-environmental issues
- Encouraging use of environmentally-friendly methods of production
- Encouraging networking and exchange of good practices with farmers/stakeholders from neighboring countries
- Encouraging organisation to meet the environmental challenges in the Danube Basin and the requirements of EU accession.

BULGARIA, ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA

Best Agricultural Practice on my Farm

Project Summary and Scope

The project aimed to increase the cooperation between local public authorities (LPA), farmers, local population, environmental and agriculture field NGOs etc. to promote the use of the best agriculture practices to reduce and prevent nutrient and toxic pollution from agriculture sector, including: Changing to the use of organic fertilizers, manure management, crop rotation, and rational use of water.

It was implemented in partnership with Agriculture and Food Department of the Falesti County Council, Ecologic Control Section, mayoralties of Pruteni, Horesti and Taxobeni villages, the Centre for Ecologic Investigations "Selecția" from Balti, "Prut 2000" NGO from Pruteni and "Euroconcept" NGO from Botoșani town.

The implementation of the project started with an information campaign, distribution of materials and the launching of the contest of local farmers selection that will be involved in the training programme on promoting and testing the BAP on their own lands. After the selection, collaboration contracts were signed between the NGOs and the farmers. There were 4 training workshops with the participation of scientists in the field.

Best Agricultural Practices

The projects have contributed to the reduction and minimisation of nutrient loads in the Danube River Basin by informing and training selected farmers in non-polluting agricultural practices and the reduction and correct application of pesticides. Farmers, youth, students, citizens and agricultural land owners were involved in rehabilitation of the agricultural environment. These activities have served as an example for other communities.

As result of the project:

- **25 farmers** stopped using or have diminished use of fertilizers and other toxic substances in agricultural growth;
- **12 unauthorized dumping sites** in the region close to aquatic sources that flow into the



Danube basin were liquidated;

- **8 unauthorized dumping sites** on the Prut riverbank were liquidated;
- **The remaining of three chemical storehouses** based on a feasibility study to rehabilitate, construct and maintain the wetlands area to reduce nutrient loading; and
- **2,000 trees were** planted.

Other Key Successes

- Better environmental awareness among rural population due to greater responsibility of LPA and citizens for environmental protection, improvement of environmental and water quality through liquidation of unauthorised dumping sites
- An increased level of awareness and responsibility of farmers, civil society and authorities on use and storage of pesticides
- Increased level of competency and practical abilities to promote and apply the best agricultural practices for farmers, partners of the project
- Transboundary experience and knowledge sharing in the practical application of environmentally oriented agricultural practices.

Key BMP Indicators

- At the end of the project the lab analysis showed an improvement of water quality in Camenca and Sovatul Mare rivers, with about 20% better than at the beginning of the project.
- 12 unauthorized dumping sites from the region, situated close to aquatic sources that flow into the Danube basin were liquidated.
- Awareness was improved for than 15,000 people from those 12 communities situated on the left Prut riverbank and indirectly over 30,000 citizens by informative booklets and bulletins.

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