

**Thematic area:**  
Sustainable  
food and  
agricultural  
systems

# Agricultural Production Support in Albania



finishing in 1997. However, particularly in the capacity-building sector, major needs still had to be met to establish a sustainable after sale service and equipment supply to inform potential clients about technical options available. To address these additional issues the project GCP/ALB/005/ITA, funded by the Government of Italy from end 2002 to 2006, was designed. The project is funded under the multi-bilateral programme.

#### ■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers of six selected communes of the coastal plain
- > Women
- > Albanian consumers

#### ■ Objectives

The overall objective is to assist farmers and agriculture cooperatives in the development of complete food chain in the Albanian food market.

The specific objectives are:

1. increase production and marketing of:
  - > milk and dairy products
  - > fruits and vegetables products
  - > quality grapes and wine
  - > olive fruits and oil
2. Strengthening of links between individual farms, farmer organizations and food processing and marketing
3. Provide capacity building through the creation of training courses

#### ■ Strategies

- > Continuous training on the work of local farmers and assistants to producers. 2 seminars were organized for the preparation and testing of wine with particular attention to best practices for the production of high quality wine
- > Study tours in the Umbria Region, organized in collaboration with the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari for Albanian producers

**Overall Objective:**  
Assisted farmers  
in the development  
of complete food  
chains

**Donor:**  
Government of  
Italy

**Contribution:**  
US\$7 002 111

**Participating  
countries:**  
Albania

**Duration:**  
4 years and 2  
months  
From 01 Nov 2002  
to 31 Dec 2006

The main constraints of agriculture in the Republic of Albania have been poor infrastructure and in particular the lack of adequate marketing structures that would support the development of agriculture production and agriculture processing. This is reflected in the high food imports. In addition, more than 60 percent of the Albanian population lives in rural areas. Therefore, agriculture could have an important function for income generation and rural livelihood. The difficult situation and the increase of the unemployment rate due to the lack of alternative employment results in migration flows from rural to urban areas and emigration.

To improve agricultural production, a cost effective supply of quality equipment is still required to address the existing demand and bring about technical progress. The project's first phase, project GCP/ALB/003/ITA, identified a strong demand for all kinds of agricultural equipment revealing a dynamic development in the market for these items. Project GCP/ALB/003/ITA had a two year duration starting in 1995 and



- > Technical equipment purchased for each target sector (i.e. light tractors, milking machines, etc.)
- > In-country tours, field visits and field demonstrations have also been a widely used tool for the dissemination of different improvements in the various sectors
- > Assist farmers in improving the farming efficiency and performance of the vine growers through improved cultivations systems targeting grape tending structure, pruning systems, fertilization, irrigation, and pest and diseases management, etc
- > Assist members of grape growing and wine making associations to improve mechanization level through supplying appropriate tools and equipment for agronomic operations
- > Assisting the vine growers to organize and improve the production and harvesting campaign, based on grape ripening and sugar content accumulation and proper scheduling of harvesting and transportation to the winery
- > Prepare and disseminate extension and content-specific training materials (leaflets) on grape growing including qualitative agronomic-specifications of rootstocks and varieties that are supported by the project
- > Organize in-country field visits with members of grape growing and wine making associations to more advanced grape growing areas to learn from experience and to get exposed to new production realities

■ **Expected results**

- > Increase quantity and quality of marketed milk and dairy products
- > Increased production and marketing of quality fresh/processed fruits & vegetables
- > Increased production and marketing of quality grape, wine, olive fruits and oil
- > Established and functional rural market facility and slaughterhouse facilities and functional ICT network/services within Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MAFCP)
- > Strengthening of agricultural associations and promotion of consumer education as a fundamental step towards the commercialization and improvement of competitive in the sector

■ **Ongoing results**

- > Increased quantity and quality of marketed milk and dairy products In Dajci and Ana e Malit communes of Shkodra district, north Albania
- > Increased production and marketing of quality grape and wine, fresh fruits and vegetables
- > Established and functional rural market facility in Durres area
- > Established and functional slaughterhouse facilities
- > Progress in the infrastructural and technological renewal of the dairy sector
- > Albanian producers learnt the use of improve techniques in various sectors such as fruit and wine production, post-harvest and associationism



Geographic area:  
**Europe**

GCP/BIH/002/ITA

**Thematic area:**  
Sustainable  
food and  
agricultural  
systems

# Inventory of Post-War Situation of Land Resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina



subsequently extended until 30 June 2007 with a new contribution bringing the total project funds to US\$3 438 154. The project is funded under the multi-bilateral programme.

## ■ Beneficiaries

- > The staff of concerned Institutes, Ministries and Organizations in the country will benefit from the project.
- > Other Institutes and Ministries, which will have an interest in the outputs of the project, - or as a client of the result produced, or as providers of data and specific expertise and which will be involved in a co-ordination committee guided by the Institute of Agro-pedology
- > The direct users of these materials such as policy makers at the highest level and farmers in need for diversified and enhanced production methods

## ■ Objectives

The overall objective is to provide essential information on land resources, capability and risks following the war. Understanding the war damage and the state and quality of land in Bosnia Herzegovina along with the information management tools supporting that understanding will represent a valuable tool for the optimisation and allocation of emergency and agricultural rehabilitation intervention resources to the agricultural sector and to the vulnerable population in rural areas.

The specific objectives are:

1. To strengthen the Institute of Agro-pedology in Sarajevo with appropriate equipment including laboratory and GIS, and training to enable the carrying out of surveys, analysis and interpretation of data on land resources leading to policy advice for planning and agricultural use
2. To prepare a comprehensive land inventory of resources in Bosnia Herzegovina with maps and digital

**Overall Objective:**  
Provide essential  
information on  
land resources,  
capability and  
risks following  
the war

**Donor:**  
Government of  
Italy

**Contribution:**  
US\$3 438 154

**Participating  
countries:**  
Republic of  
Bosnia and  
Herzegovina

**Duration:**  
6 years  
From 22 May 2000  
to 30 June 2007

Agriculture has always played an important role in Bosnia and Herzegovina's economy, providing full or part-time employment to some 40 percent of its population. The conflict which took place between 1990 and 1995 had a devastating effect on agriculture and production. At the end of the war, nearly 80 percent of the population depended on imported donor food aid. Furthermore, a large part of land was mined and the difficulties of the land mine clearing activity have had a profound impact on agricultural production.

Given the above situation, the preparation of a database and maps with relevant agricultural information on land resources in the country is considered a high priority by the government and as a basic pre-requisite for planning and implementation of emergency and agricultural rehabilitation interventions. This led the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government of Italy and FAO to start the present project GCP/BIH/002/ITA with an initial contribution of US\$1 013 110. After the initial 29 months, the project was



- material prepared at an equivalent scale of 1:200.000, including information on agricultural land affected by mines and data needed for evaluation of land quality and agro-ecological zoning
3. To prepare reports on the state and potential of land resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### ■ Strategies

- > Four training courses were also delivered with the support of international consultants on soil and terrain database, agro-ecological zoning (AEZ), remote sensing and geographical information systems (GIS)
- > Three students from the University of Sarajevo participated in a training course on the use of GIS for land resources management. The training course was carried out at the Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare in Florence, Italy
- > Intensive participatory activity by establishing workgroups at a municipal level in three pilot areas: Sanski Most, Prnjavor and Stolac. Under the guidance of a regional coordinator, the workgroups have defined a portfolio of operational initiatives for rural development in each pilot area. Similar initiatives have been organized in other municipalities (Srebrenica, Bratunac and Milici) aimed at involving local stakeholders in the planning activity, with the collaboration of two international consultants and of an additional regional coordinator
- > Training provided by the project covered the democratization process, with an emphasis on bringing land administration closer to its intended beneficiaries and facilitating the active local participation in the planning and implementation of resource management activities

#### ■ Expected results

- > Provided Bosnian authorities of a modern tool with methodologies and guidelines for land resource management and land use planning, which will improve the decision makers capacity for priority setting in land use matters, in particular in rural areas. This tool includes a comprehensive set of data and digitized information characterizing the natural resource base of the country

- > Improved relations between the population and the local institutions, which were deteriorated during the war
- > Improved motivation of participants, better communication and strengthened links among the different ethnic communities
- > Strengthened of institutional capacities related to the soil management
- > Creation of a group of human resources able to manage the decisional process in the public and private sectors

#### ■ Ongoing results

- > Creation of a soil, terrain and climate digital database for the entire country, and produced about 15 thematic maps on soil and terrain, land use and land cover, climate and mine risk
- > Development of a soil management model based on the methodology of agro-ecological areas, as a priority of the project
- > Finalizing the study on farming systems in the pilot areas where ecological and economic criteria for soil evaluation have been applied
- > Establishment of a solid cooperation with the UN Development Programme in Srebrenica, also through the signature of a letter of agreement. A focal point has been identified in each municipalities and small support teams have been created with the coordination of an FAO technician
- > Publication of two documents: the Guidelines for Participatory Land Use Development in the Municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Land Utilization Types. These two papers have been distributed freely to every municipality of the country and many other national and international institutions and are already being used as a basis for planning activities



Geographic area:  
**Europe**

GTFS/RER/017/ITA

**Thematic area:**  
Sustainable  
food and  
agricultural  
systems

# Integrated Pest Management for Western Corn Rootworm in Central and Eastern Europe



The specific objectives are:

1. Establish an IPM participatory training and research programme based on farmer field schools (FFS)
2. Understand the spread of WCR
3. Understand socio-economic aspects relevant to WCR management in specific local contexts

#### ■ Strategies

- > Create a regional framework for human capacities development
- > Conduct pilot training programs
- > Develop monitoring and assessment of project activities
- > Conduct studies on local agro-biodiversity components
- > Raise awareness on the role of biodiversity in IPM and crop management
- > Supporting policy development at national and regional level

#### ■ Expected results

- > A regional framework of staff trained on IPM research
- > 500 trained farmers per country
- > Development of a participatory monitoring-assessment component
- > Strengthened WCR regional network to coordinate WCR
- > Completion of studies on socio-economic aspects of corn production

#### ■ Ongoing results

- > Training courses for facilitators and farmers was conducted in each country involved in the project
- > A regional network of trained staff was created with regional workshop training content focused on WCR, and IPM
- > Participatory research/field studies were initiated on biodiversity
- > Increase of awareness and regional cooperation among various communities on the WCR problem

**Overall Objective:**  
Protect maize  
production  
through integrated  
pest management

**Donor:**  
Government of  
Italy

**Contribution:**  
US\$2 260 000

**Participating  
countries:**  
Bulgaria, Croatia,  
Hungary,  
Montenegro,  
Republic of Bosnia  
and Herzegovina,  
Romania, Republic  
of Serbia, Slovak  
Republic

**Duration:**  
4 years and  
5 months  
From 01 Jul 2003  
to 31 Dec 2007

Maize is a key crop for food security in Central and Eastern Europe but its production is in danger because of a new invasive species: the Western Corn Rootworm – WCR (*Diabrotica virgifera*). It affects approximately 300 000 sq. Km which include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and the Slovak Republic. The present regional project enables the above-mentioned countries to develop Integrated pest management (IPM) strategies using participatory research and training approaches to effectively manage the pest at field level and contain its spread.

#### ■ Beneficiaries

- > Farmers
- > Staff from national governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- > National institutions

#### ■ Objectives

The overall objective is to protect corn production in Central Europe from losses caused by WCR through the development of IPM