



ROUND TABLE RESOLUTION

Sustainable Agriculture

Within the framework of the VII International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day”

Moderators: Vladislav Minin (*Interregional public organization “Association for Assistance of Field Experiments and Investigation”*)
Ari Kultanen (*ProAgria South-Karelia*)

Participants: 48

Participants of session have discussed in details and have accepted the resolution where the necessity of the Round table «Sustainable agriculture» organization on the following VIII International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day” is marked.

48 participants, representatives of Finland, Sweden and Russia have taken part in two sessions. 19 reports were presented on sessions.

Two basic themes were discussed:

- International cooperation and experience of Russian and Finnish activity on development of ecologically friendly agriculture.
- International cooperation on rural sustainable development.

Official bodies, municipalities and people of the Baltic Sea region cooperate actively in questions of environment protection. In the year 2004 at Summit of the Governments of the Baltic Sea States the decision on transformation of Baltic Sea region into eco-region for sustainable development was accepted.

Rural areas, especially agricultural areas, are obvious sources of pollution for natural waters and sea ecosystem, also on the Baltic Sea.

Participants of the Round table «Sustainable agriculture» came to a conclusion, that for fulfillment the obligations on decreasing of ecological load of agriculture, which Russia has within the framework of the Helsinki Convention, it is necessary to ask the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, Governments of St. Petersburg, Republic of Karelia, Leningrad, Kaliningrad, Pskov and Novgorod regions to assist in performance of the following actual tasks:

1. Complete the «Codes of Good Agricultural Practice» for Leningrad region, adaptation them for conditions of other areas of Northwest part of the Russian Federation, to organize their prompt distribution and to provide their observance.

2. Develop curriculum of the all levels agricultural educational institutions including there «Codes of Good Agricultural Practice».

3. Pay attention to establishment of ecological control system in formation on social and economic development programs for rural municipalities.

4. Ecologically safe manure and waste storing, treatment and utilization should be demand for getting approval to reconstruction and construction of animal husbandry objects. Federal and regional authorities should allocate to their budget co-financing in form of investment subsidies to these measures.

5. The Sosnovskiy Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum Sosnowskyi* Manden) is a special ecological problem of the region. It is spreading intensively and destroying ecosystem and it is also harmful for human health. A program on limiting the growth and total cleaning of areas from this plant is essential.

Participants of the Round table «Sustainable agriculture», who represent different Baltic Sea countries, state that in the Baltic Sea region should be executed the following actions with assistance of HELCOM, Nordic Council of Ministers and responsible state bodies of all Baltic Sea countries:

1. Environmental legislation and rules for agriculture on the Baltic Sea countries should be homogenized as well as control and sanctions should be on the same level in every country. This is important for equality of agricultural producers, who live in the same Baltic Sea region and compete on the same international market.

2. Creation a field experience network for monitoring and managing of nutrient and hazardous substances from diffuse sources, covering all Baltic Sea countries. This should provide exchange of accurate data and easy approach to them.

3. More environmentally friendly fertilizers, means of plant protection and their application technologies should be developed.

4. Authorities and institutions of the Baltic Sea countries should publish maps on ecology and land utilization using the same system.

5. Exchange and cooperation of students, teachers and scientists of Agricultural Educational and Science Institutions should be increased on Baltic Sea region. One form of this could be international summer courses and camps for young scientists and students.

Participants of the section ask politicians, members of parliaments and state authorities of the Baltic Sea countries to pay attention to formation of national policies for environmental and social aspects of rural areas and agriculture. This political initiative should lead to concrete programs with financing instruments.

Participants of the section support creation of the rural municipalities union of the Baltic Sea region.

Participants of the section consider that it is essential to include round table «Sustainable agriculture» in the Program of the VIII International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day”.

After discussion and entering of some changes, participants of Agricultural section accepted the Resolution unanimously in above written form.