

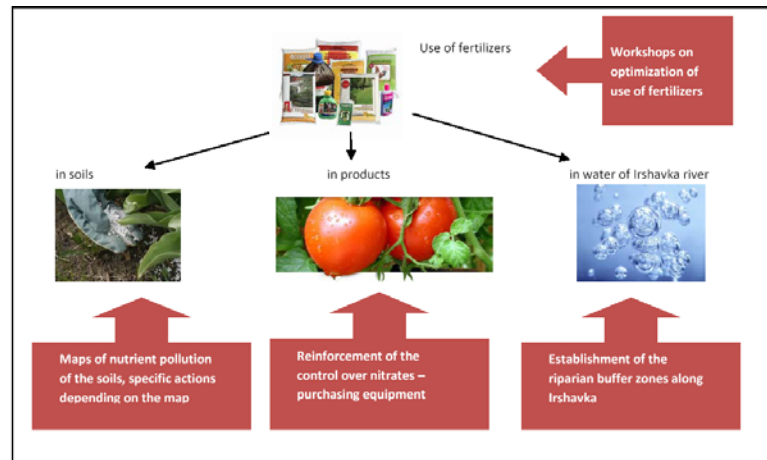
A “Best practices of Fertilizers Reduction from Agricultural Lands in Upper Tisza basin, Ukraine”

“To produce for People Without Damage to the Nature”

The overall objective of the project is to demonstrate cost-effective measures to reduce nutrients loads through proper agricultural practices.

The project is being implemented by NGO Zakarpattya Oblast organization of All-Ukrainian Ecological League in the Ukrainian part of Tisza basin in Zakarpatska Oblast. The selected region in Zakarpattya – *Siltse* and *Zarichhya* village are the most representative of the region because it is the center of early vegetables growing in green houses. The settlements are located in Irshava rayon of Zakarpattya Oblast, on both sides of Irshavka river, which flows into Borzhava, Upper Tisza basin.

Key activities include reduction of fertilizers use in soils, water of Irshavka river and agricultural products (see Figure 1). In order to reduce pollution by chemicals of agricultural lands, a chemical analysis of soils in the selected villages will be performed. Based on its results relevant maps of nutrient pollution and fertility of the lands will be prepared together with practical recommendations regarding what to grow on these lands, how much fertilizer to use and general agricultural practices.



Picture 1. Project activities scheme

In order to reduce water pollution, a riparian buffer zone will be created along the two villages in cooperation with local farmers. It requires public awareness regarding building of green houses and other agricultural activities. Accordingly, the project plans a number of interviews, workshops on best agricultural practices and preparation of local strategy of nutrients reduction with involvement of wide range of stakeholders. The project will offer a “win-win” opportunity for farmers in exchange for buffer zone creation, which will protect against bank erosion (due to trees to be planted in the riparian zone), improve quality of their drinking water and provide additional fruit trees (the trees for riparian zone will be bought by the project and selected in agreement with farmers).

In order to reduce nitrate contents in the agricultural products, the project team will use two types of nitrates measurement equipment: 1) for laboratory use of sanitary – epidemiological service to built their capacity to control quality of the products; and, 2) for schools and relevant village councils to awareness building. The project will also conduct a competition amongst local students “find the product with the most nitrates” based on use of the supplied equipment.

The practical results together with strategic documents developed will be reflected in the short documentary, which should support further replication of the activities in other villages in Zakarpattya and promote good agricultural practices in general.