



INVESTMENT

GEF USD 55,200

Co-financing from the Mayorality of Slobozia Mare USD 5,000

Total financing USD 60,200

PROJECT DURATION

- November 2009 to August 2010

NUTRIENT CHALLENGES

- Nutrient pollution of surface and ground waters from improper stockpiling of manure and subsequent runoff causing leaching into ground and surface waters.
- Nutrients also lead to the eutrophication of nearby water bodies, especially stagnant and semi-stagnant water bodies (Beleu Lake), decreasing aquatic biodiversity as well as reducing water resource use (drinking water, recreation).
- Contaminated soil by manure, which represents 80% to 90% of all the waste deposited on the present garbage dump.

EARLY NUTRIENT BMP "WINS"

- Manure management and centralized manure storage

MOLDOVA

Decreasing Water Pollution in the Prut River Basin through Best Agricultural Practices

Project Summary and Scope

The objective of this project is to reduce nutrient pollution from agricultural sources in the Prut River basin. The project worked with local stakeholders to construct a manure composting facility, demonstrate proper composting procedures, encourage the use of composted manure as a nutrient source for "ecological agricultural production" and raise awareness of best agricultural practices in the area. The site of the composting facility was selected near the garbage dump of the village Slobozia Mare to ease the collection and transportation burden on local farmers.

- Component 1:** Demonstration of composting and the use of composted manure — This project supported the construction of a composting facility (with a surface of 200 m² and volume of 300 m³), and a demonstration of the composting process and how use of compost in order to reduce agricultural impacts on water quality.
- Component 2:** Outreach activities — The project facilitated outreach in the community to raise awareness about ecological issues, the importance of the lower Prut River wetland complex and the impact of excessive nutrient loads on the Prut and Danube rivers and the Black Sea. To demonstrate the value of compost, the local kindergarten used compost for a vegetable garden.

Benefits and Best Practices

- A centralised manure composting facility was built, creating an opportunity to educate farmers on proper application methods, rates and timing, and crop and field management to optimise nutrient use and minimise loss
- Mayorality leadership was important to ensure buy-in of farmers to use the centralised composting facility.
- Farmers were trained and educated in composting, manure use, and other best agricultural practices.

- Five village meetings and five educational sessions in schools and colleges were held on ecological agricultural best practices; a train-the-trainer session on ecological issues was held for local geography teachers; joint meetings were organised with other nearby communities; and leaflets, brochures, and posters were published to highlight ways to change behaviour.

Other Key Successes

- An experimental 200 m² garden was created next to the kindergarten of Slobozia Mare to demonstrate yield improvements from using composting.
- The quality of surface and groundwater in the project area was improved, benefitting the Prut and Danube rivers and the Black Sea.
- Agricultural productivity was improved through better agricultural practices.
- There was improved access to ecological agriculture export markets.
- A TV report disseminated information regarding the project, including best practices implemented in the framework of this project, the financing authority, and project results and beneficiaries.
- There was interaction with the GEF/World Bank Agricultural Pollution Control Project, which developed two types of platforms — small and large. The small platforms shared by farms are being utilised but the large platforms do not have funds to transport the manure so they remain unused.

Lessons Learned

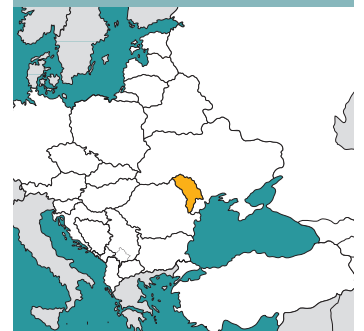
- Size of the central platform should be at the village scale.
- Awareness and buy-in among the village and farmers is key.
- Mayoralty commitment is needed to address transportation issues.

Key BMP Indicators

- Improved water quality as a result of reduced nutrient discharges
- Number of farms properly using the facility and the resulting compost
- Number of farms using other best agricultural practices
- Use of best management practices of the compost pad and final compost quality
- Increases in the income of farmers due to the adoption of manure management and other best agricultural practices
- Changes in agricultural yields and/or market value as a result of proper use of compost

Further Information

For more information, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfAjKisrTss> or contact Mr. Artur Nebunu of the Ecological Counseling Center Cahul at cce_cahul@yahoo.com.



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