

UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project

Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient
Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in the Danube River
Basin

Workshop on Developing Pilot Projects for the Promotion of Best Agricultural Practice in the Danube River Basin

Project Output 1.3:
Pilot Projects on Agricultural Pollution Reduction

19 – 20 January 2004, Bucharest, Romania



**GFA Terra Systems
in co-operation with Avalon**



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Acknowledgements

The organisers are very grateful for the generous support of the Romanian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences in providing the location and facilities for the workshop, and especially for the kind assistance of Dr Cristian Kleps

Introduction to the Workshop

This 2 day workshop was organised within the framework of Output 1.3 of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project (DRP). The specific aim of Output 1.3 is the “*development of pilot projects on reduction of nutrients and other harmful substances from agricultural point and non-point sources*”. This is closely linked to Output 1.2, which aims to promote the “*reduction of nutrients and other harmful substances from agricultural point source and non-point sources through agricultural policy changes*”. Both outputs have therefore been undertaken by the same consortium - GFA Terra Systems (Germany) in co-operation with Avalon (Netherlands).

The GFA Terra Systems/Avalon consultancy team consists of 6 international consultants and a network of 35 national experts in the 11 central and lower DRB countries eligible for UNDP/GEF assistance. The main focus of their work during the first phase of Output 1.3 was the identification and preparation of potential pilot projects for demonstrating at catchment level various aspects of the general concept of Best Agricultural Practice (BAP) developed in Output 1.2.

Selected pilot projects will be implemented in Phase 2 of the Danube Regional Project during the period 2004 – 2006. The **7 priority countries** of the central and lower DRB that will be eligible for pilot project activities are:

- EU *Pre*-accession Countries (accession after 2004) - Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia (currently preparing its application for EU membership)
- EU *Non*-accession Countries - Bosnia & Herzegovina (including Republica Srpska), Serbia and Montenegro, Moldova and Ukraine

This workshop was a key activity in the development of BAP pilot project proposals. It brought together agricultural and environmental policy-makers, representatives of agricultural extension services and environmental NGOs from the 7 priority countries, together with the GFA national experts and consultants, to participate in the discussion and elaboration of pilot projects.

Workshop Objectives and Approach

The final workshop programme is in Annex 1. The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- Raise awareness of the potential role of pilot projects and extension services in promoting the reduction of agricultural pollution in the DRB (priority countries)
- Define the function of pilot projects as a “tool” for a) building the capacity of extension services and b) supporting policy reform for agricultural pollution control
- Discuss and agree on clear selection criteria for pilot projects
- Present outlines of the proposed BAP pilot projects for review and discussion
- Refine proposed pilot projects.

The workshop was structured to balance a number of presentations from keynote speakers and consultants with the opportunity for discussion and feedback at a national level. There was one “break-out” session during which the national representatives were divided into 2 working groups according to geographical location as follows:

- Break-out Group 1: Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine
- Break-out Group 2: Bosnia & Herzegovina (including Republica Srpska), Croatia and Serbia & Montenegro

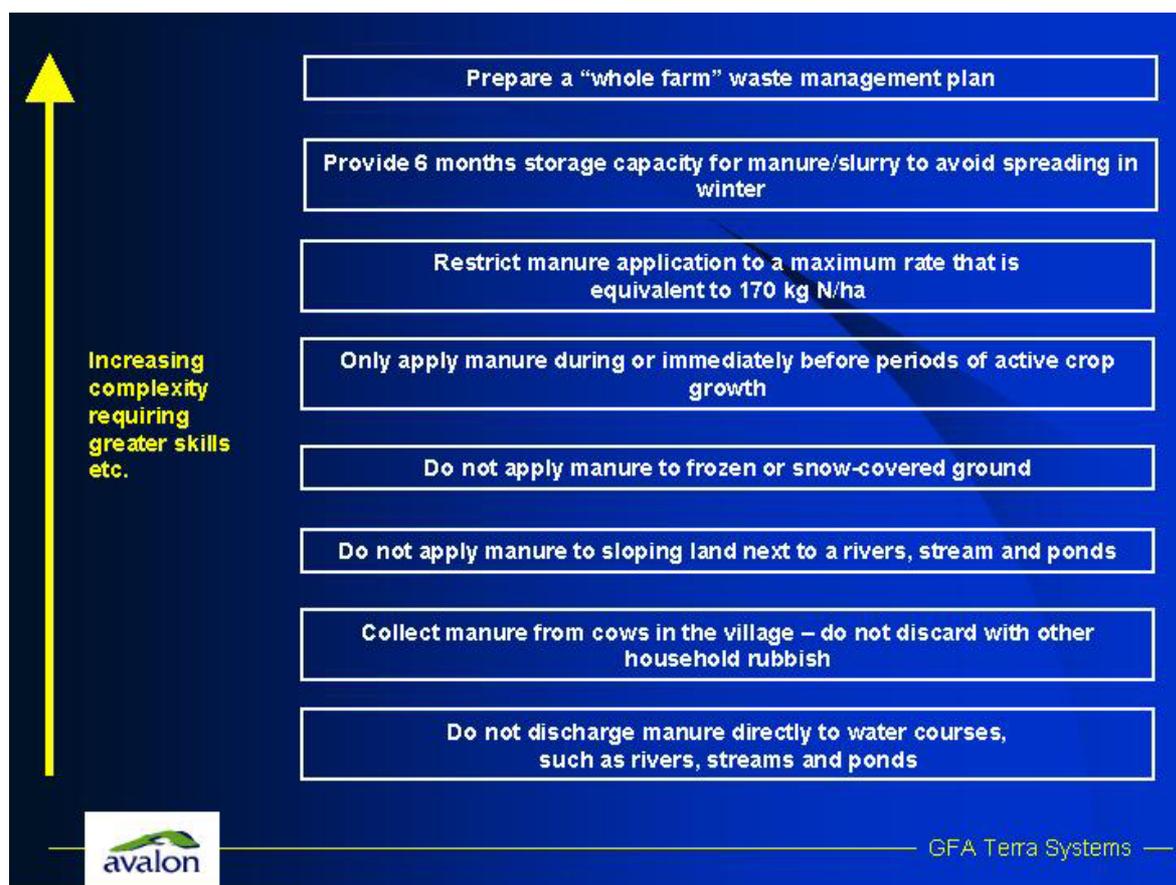
The purpose of the “break-out” session was to consolidate and refine a series of pilot project proposals presented to the workshop by the GFA national experts, including discussions and agreement of:

- Pilot areas
- Changes in management practice to promote
- Direct beneficiaries (advisory)
- Related actors (project implementation)
- National activities (capacity building/advisory)
- Trans-boundary activities (dissemination etc.).

Conclusions from Preceding Workshop in Zagreb (October 2003)

The concept of Best Agricultural Practice (BAP) was introduced and discussed at a previous workshop organised by the GFA Terra Systems/Avalon consultancy team in Zagreb in October 2003.

The conclusions from the Zagreb workshop were briefly introduced again in Bucharest, including the definition of GFP as “...the highest level of pollution control practice that any farmer can reasonably be expected to adopt when working within their own national, regional and/or local context in the Danube River Basin” and the associated hierarchy of BAP (see example of BAP for manure application below).



It was stressed again that BAP is not a fixed or prescriptive concept, but provides a framework for understanding that the level of pollution control/environmental management that we can reasonably expect from farmers in different DRB countries will vary according to:

- **Agronomic, environmental and socio-economic** context
- **Available know-how and technology** etc. to support farmers to adopt higher levels of BAP
- **Available policy instruments/tools** to “push/pull” farmers up to higher levels of BAP – including regulatory, economic and informative/advisory policy instruments.

Finally the conclusions of the Zagreb workshop were repeated as follows:

- The concept of BAP must be **flexible and adaptable** to address the considerable diversity of the DRB countries
- The concept is appropriate is appropriate to the DRB, but requires **further development and elaboration**
- It is important to consider the **pre-conditions for BAP** – consolidation of land ownership, greater co-operation between farmers, increased institutional capacity and policy-making experience

- There remains a **significant lack of information** on the causes of agricultural pollution in the DRB and the practical measures for farmers to reduce the risk of pollution
- It is necessary to target awareness-raising and information at **all stakeholders levels** from farmers to policy-makers
- The promotion of BAP must be linked to **economic benefits** for the farmer such as improvements in yield and savings in the cost of agrochemical inputs
- There should be more emphasis upon a **“farming systems” approach** to agricultural pollution control rather than simply an “input reduction” approach

Summary of Workshop Presentations

Introduction to the Concept of Using Pilot Projects for the Promotion of BAP

Dr Mark Redman, GFA Terra Systems, Hamburg

Within Output 1.3 of the Danube Regional Project (DRP), seven countries of the central and lower DRB region (the EU Pre-accession Countries Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia; the EU Non-accession Countries - Bosnia & Herzegovina including Republica Srpska, Serbia and Montenegro, Moldova and Ukraine) have been identified as a priority for the development and implementation of pilot projects to promote the concept of Best Agricultural Practice.

The pilot projects will be implemented in Phase 2 of the DRP (2004 – 2006) and it is anticipated that they will involve, for example:

- 3 months preparation
- 18-24 months implementation
- 3-6 months evaluation and dissemination.

The direct beneficiaries of the pilot projects will be the agricultural advisers/extension services in the priority DRB countries.

The specific objective of the pilot projects is to “**demonstrate** how improvements can be made in the **capacity/effectiveness** of agricultural advisers/extension services to provide appropriate **information and advice** that supports the **highest level of pollution control practice** by farmers according to **local context**”. The potential impact of improving the effectiveness of agricultural advisers/extension services in the central and lower DRB countries is:

- a) raised **awareness** amongst farmers of pollution risks
- b) increased **avoidance of bad practice** – including improved compliance with relevant legislation
- c) increased **adoption of good practice** – including utilisation of economic incentives

Most advisory services are traditionally concerned with agronomic advice and it was stressed that providing information and advice to farmers on the environmental impact of their farming activities is a notoriously difficult issue. Consequently, all advice/information provided for farmers must be communicated effectively in terms of content, format and delivery. Where possible, environmental messages about the need for reducing agricultural pollution should also appeal to the “self-interest” of farmers i.e. improved income/profit.

There is also much potential for the development of more innovative approaches to working with farmers in areas of high pollution risk. To illustrate these points, a case study from the UK was presented (see Annex 2 – LANDCARE Pilot Project).

Preliminary criteria for the selection of BAP pilot projects were also presented to the workshop for discussion – these were:

1. Clearly defined activities targeted at capacity building/activation of providers of advice to farmers
2. Limited to a specific geographical region and/or priority agricultural pollution issue - fertilisers, pesticides, manure handling or agricultural run-off
3. “Experimental” – for example:
 - “Testing the introduction of new principles and practices”
 - “Incubating/developing new and innovative approaches”
4. Good potential for replication at regional, national or international level
5. Responds to the comparative need of different countries
6. Includes transboundary co-operation where this is appropriate to specific pollution issues within specific catchments
7. Management practices that are promoted have good potential for reducing the risk of water pollution
8. Promotes co-operation with existing international and bilateral donors where appropriate

9. Reinforcement of other existing interventions by the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project
10. Includes effective participation of relevant NGOs (environmental, producer groups, community-based etc.) where appropriate.

See the results and conclusions of the discussion about these selection criteria under “Workshop Results”.

Agricultural Management Systems in the Floodplains of the River Leine

Dr. Josef Strottdrees, Chamber of Agriculture, Province of Lower Saxony, Germany

Preface

The agricultural development of the Leine (rural district of Hildesheim and southern part of the rural district of Hannover, Lower Saxony, Germany) is part of a waters development plan. Binding legislature under which the plan falls is the EU-Water Framework Directive and the National Soil Protection Law.

Situation

The Leine is a river in Thuringia and Lower Saxony, Germany and a tributary of the Aller river, which belongs to the Weser river basin. The Leine is 241 km in length and has no dikes. Its basin contains 6,526 km².

Where the Leine is coming out from the middle mountains into the lowlands of northern Germany, the floodplains become wide. This changing part from the lower mountains to the flat areas was subject of performing a river development plan.

A high water level in the Leine will be reached after heavy rainfalls and during snowmelt in the middle mountains. According to weather records from several decades this can be expected mostly between the middle of October and the middle of March.

In the floodplains of the discussed area around 70 % of the land is farmland (51 % arable land, 19 % meadows). The rest of 30 % are bodies of standing waters (11%), settlement areas (5%), forests (3%) and others. The nitrogen level in the water of the Leine ranges between 5 – 7 mg NO₃-N. The critical value is 2,5 mg NO₃-N.

The structural grade is a parameter to define the quality and suitability of the living area for typical plants and animals in waters in the river and their side ranges. The Leine has no section which is unchanged or little unchanged. Moderately changed are 9 % of the river stretch, the rest of the river is more than moderately changed.

The soil grade for farmland is very high in the floodplains. The drainage of water-influenced soils is mostly well organized. Due to this situation the soils were historically mostly used as arable land. The standard crop rotation in this region is sugar beet, followed by winter wheat, followed by winter wheat. For all crops the farmers usually prepare the soil by deep tillage. Livestock farming is receding due to higher milk-yields per cow and a reduced number of dairy farms.

Aims

In the future, agriculture will be based on a more liberal trading system. Subsidies will more and more decrease. By consequence the best agricultural practice has to be developed on self-supporting systems.

The regional development concept consists of the different subjects like farming, water management, nature protection and different uses (recreation, fishery, construction industry). The waters development plan was created as a public participation process. Before discussing problems in detail, the mediators focussed the working groups on a basic consent. This included the ecological connectivity along the river, buffer strips, best practice in landscape use and best practice in arable land use. The latter includes stopping soil erosion in floodplains.

Indicators

By now, the most discussed alternative to stop soil erosion is to set up meadows. An economical review shows that the change in the production system from the actual crop rotation towards using farmland by meadows would extremely decrease the income per hectare. During discussions the local

agricultural working groups are looking for other farming systems. Up to now one result is to apply a crop between harvesting winter wheat in the summer and seeding the sugar beet in spring. Living plants in the wintertime on the farmland prevent erosion during high water levels.

Another result of the discussion is to harvest sugar beet early enough to apply winter wheat with well developed plants before a possible flood is coming. In this way the leaves of winter wheat stop soil erosion. The economic calculation shows that the reduction in income due to this agricultural strategy are not so severe than after changing to meadows. The farmers can grow what they want on their fields but they need to know how they can grow without damaging the environment. The explained management is a possibility to keep naturally highly productive soils under agricultural cultivation.

Action

To implement the best agricultural practice in floodplains, several conditions should be considered. At first it will be useful to have a discussion with farmers about what is best agricultural practice. A mediator or advisor could help to set up and lead the discussion process. Volunteer agreements like supporting reduced tillage systems through the EU-CAP are useful. Development funds to buy out farmland or a field clearing can help to develop nature protection in areas with no interest in agriculture. An important project could be a change in the farm business. Sometimes a combination between farming and tourism could be a profitable alternative.

It is more important to guide farmers in developing their own decisions than to use only the point of facts from the advisor.

For developing a farm advisory concept, a system of model farms (multiplication) and a super and / or special advisor is useful.

Previous Experiences with Pilot Projects in the Danube River Basin

Martien Lankester, Avalon Foundation, Netherlands

The information provided in the presentation was based on experiences of a project carried out by Avalon and partners in the period 1995-1999. This project (part of the Environmental Programme for the Danube River Basin) was implemented in three countries: Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. Aim was to establish Demonstration Centres each combining:

- 1) Demo farm (DF) for sustainable farming, training and marketing, demonstrate organic agriculture (OA) and low input sustainable agriculture (LISA)
- 2) Research and education centre (REC) (research, collect and disseminate information, prepare strategy recommendations)
- 3) Regional study on economic and environmental performance.

Lessons learned were (in the field of):

- 1) Aim: set realistic aims and objectives, don't be too ambitious (better take small steps);
- 2) Activities: identifiable for farmers; fit to local/regional circumstances; preferably have a multidisciplinary appeal;
- 3) Selection: build on existing experience; suitable location;
- 4) Organization: be transparent; commercially-oriented; select committed farmers; form local advisory groups
- 5) Stakeholder involvement: examples of stakeholders participating are farmer unions, agricultural advisory services, environmentalists, nature conservationists, processing industry, consumers
- 6) Technical Assistance: include both technical aspects (farming, agri-environment, processing, and marketing) and organisational aspects (institution building, communication, financial administration and project management). Preference for local expertise (by training trainers)!!
- 7) Results: clear language; professional outlook; good translation; arousing discussion (among local stakeholders); multimedia (to reach more target groups)
- 8) Sustainability: Sound business plan is more important than international funding; show internal sustainability based on production, extra funding for extra activities.

Effects of projects are positively influenced by:

- 1) Local ownership
- 2) Broad stakeholder dissemination
- 3) Special events (conferences, fairs, etc.)

Be aware of the quality of the process, it is of equal importance like the technical achievements. Communication is a key issue!

Best Agricultural Practice and Extension Services in Romania

Dr. Cristian Kleps, GFA Terra System, Romania

Main ideas of the presentation:

- Over 90% of the Romanian inland rivers are in the Danube River Basin;
- The importance of agriculture in the Romanian land cover (62% is agricultural land from the total country surface of 23.839 million ha);
- Diversity of the agro-ecological zones; natural and anthropogenic causes of soil degradation (including types of soil degradation);
- A decreasing trend in the use of pesticides and fertilizers since 1990; some pollution problems of the groundwater by nitrates in Oltenia region (sandy soils);
- Finalization by researchers and distribution of the “Code of good agricultural practices”, a book for professional working on agri-environment issues;
- The diversity of users in the frame of the Romanian Agricultural Knowledge Information System (AKIS), and the need of their education on agri-environmental issues, using target groups and different means of result dissemination;
- The good experience of the A.A.F.S. research-development institutes in specific technologies for the control of agricultural run-off and manure management;
- The main points of the Romanian pilot project proposals entitled: “Vocational guidance in environmental issues for local county agricultural advisers”;
- Establishment of locations and technical data for new joint project proposals using the new ICPDR selection criteria: (1) Communal manure management in the Danube River Flood Plains (in cooperation with Bulgaria), and (2) Reduced nutrient pollution by control of agricultural run-off (in cooperation with Moldova).

Presentation of Proposed BAP Pilot Projects

Proposed BAP pilot projects for each of the priority DRB countries were presented (10 min each) by the GFA national experts and/or the representatives of national partner organizations as follows:

- Ukraine – *Natalia Pogozheva*
- Moldova – *Corneliu Eftodi*
- Romania – *Christian Kleps*
- Bulgaria – *Stela Valchovska*
- Serbia & Montenegro – *Vlade Zaric*
- Bosnia & Herzegovina / Republic Srpska – *Hamid Custovic/Mihajlo Markovic*
- Croatia – *Ramona Franic*

Workshop Results

Discussion and Agreement of Selection Criteria

Facilitator: Dr Mark Redman, GFA Terra Systems, Hamburg

The preliminary criteria for the selection of BAP pilot projects that were presented to the workshop were discussed extensively. It was proposed to develop them under three headings – pre-requisites (i.e. essential characteristics of a pilot project), selection criteria and guiding principles for the design of pilot projects.

Pre-Requisites

1. There must be a counterpart organisation prepared to accept co-responsibility for project implementation
2. The counterpart organisation must have experience as a “service provider” of agricultural advice and be acceptable/credible to the agricultural community
3. The pilot project activities must be compatible with the policy recommendation under the UNDP DRP Output 1.2
4. The pilot project proposal should be considered favourably by the relevant national government(s)

Selection Criteria

1. The pilot project should include clearly defined activities targeted at capacity building/ activation of providers of advice to farmers
2. The pilot project should be limited to a specific geographical region and/or priority agricultural pollution issue - fertilisers, pesticides, manure handling or agricultural run-off
3. There should be good potential for replication of pilot activities at regional, national and/or international level
4. Pilot projects should respond to the comparative need of different countries
5. The management practices that are proposed must have good potential for reducing the risk of water pollution
6. There should be an appropriate national policy environment for implementation of the pilot project
7. The development of the proposed pilot project activities should be participatory (bottom-up!)
8. The pilot project must be suitable for evaluation with clearly defined objectives that can be monitored and evaluated within the available timeframe (2004-2006).

Guiding Principles

1. Where possible, pilot projects should be of an “experimental” nature – for example:
 - “Testing the introduction of new principles and practices”
 - “Incubating/developing new and innovative approaches”
2. Pilot projects should promote co-operation with existing international and bilateral donors where appropriate
3. Pilot projects should reinforce other existing interventions by UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project where appropriate
4. Pilot projects should include trans-boundary co-operation where this is appropriate to specific pollution issues within specific regions
5. Pilot projects should include effective participation of all stakeholders, including relevant NGOs where appropriate
6. Pilot projects should ideally add value where possible in a broader rural development context.

Preliminary BAP Pilot Project Proposals - Consolidated Matrix

Initial application of the pre-requisites, selection criteria and guiding principles to the pilot projects proposed by the GFA national experts and/or the representatives of national partner organizations led to the following 6 consolidated project proposals – of which 4 proposals include trans-boundary co-operation that appropriate to specific pollution issues within specific regions

Project Title	Pilot Area	Country							BAP Topics, Management Practices of ...				
		HR	BA	CS	BG	RO	MD	UA	Fertilizer	Manure	Pesticide	Agricultural Run-off	
1. Communal Manure Management in the Danube River Flood Plains	Rousse/Silistra County (BG) Calarasi County (RO)				•	•					✓		
2. Control of Agricultural Run-off in the Prut River Basin	Iasi County (RO) Edinet Rayon (MD)					•	•						✓
3. Introduction of Good Agricultural Practice in Odessa Oblast	Odessa Oblast							•	✓	✓	✓		
4. Non-chemical Weed Control in the Sava River Basin	HR: Zagreb Region (existing organic farm)? CS: ? BA: Lower Vrbas sub-basin	•	•	•								✓	
5. Upland Manure Management in the Sava and Bosna River Basins	Sarajevo Region, Sava basin of Central Serbia		•	•							✓		✓
6. Good Agricultural Practice in the Intensive Agricultural Region of Vojvodina	Vojvodina			•					✓	✓	✓		

Refining Project Proposals

Working Group 1: Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine

“Communal Manure Management in the Danube River Flood Plains” – Bulgaria & Romania

Facilitator: Merit Mikk, Avalon, The Netherlands

1. Proposals were discussed for a project on communal manure management in the Danube River floodplain involving trans-boundary co-operation between Moldova and Romania. The potential pilot areas are:
 - Bulgaria - counties: Slivopole (Rousse) and Tutrakan (Silistra)
 - Romania - counties: Calarasi and GirgiuSuch a project could be replicated easily in other counties and districts.
2. There are similar pollution problems in Bulgaria and Romania and the aim of the pilot project will be to introduce the BAP in manure management to prevent water pollution (surface water and groundwater). This will involve better management of livestock manure, including the elimination of direct discharges to surface water, proper manure storage and application technologies.
3. Direct beneficiaries include either the state or private extension services in Bulgaria (not fixed at the time of the workshop) and NAAC, local advisors, AE advisors working under local authorities etc. in Romania.
4. Related actors include local authorities, regional environmental inspectorates/County Environmental Agencies, Ministries of agriculture and environment, agricultural NGOs, research and development institutes, WB project co-ordination units and protected area administrations.
5. Various types of national activities are proposed, including:
 - Theoretical training of trainers in the topics such as manure storage requirements, construction of storage facilities for solid and liquid manure, composting, cost benefit considerations
 - Practical training of advisors (in established sites and in research institutes)
 - Development of guidelines for manure management and development of software for preparation of farm manure management plans
 - Establishment of demonstration sites
 - Demonstration days (open day) for pilot area farmers.
6. Proposed trans-boundary activities include:
 - Exchange of information
 - Study-tours for trainers and advisors to visit other country’s demonstration sites
 - Common workshops (in both countries) for both countries advisors
 - Exchange of lecturers in the frame of theoretical courses

“Control of Agricultural Run-off in the Prut River Basin” – Moldova & Romania

Facilitator: Dr Mark Redman, GFA Terra Systems, Hamburg, Germany

1. Proposals were discussed for a project on the control of agricultural run-off in the Prut River catchment area, involving trans-boundary co-operation between Moldova and Romania. The potential pilot areas are:
 - Moldova - Edinet Rayon with demo sites at Horodiste, Gordinesti and Lopatnic – total of 3 villages

- Romania - Vaslui County with demo sites at Husi (the Lohan tributary), Perieni (the Tutova tributary), and the third one located along the Vaslui tributary (to be further selected) – total of approx. 10 villages

Both pilot areas are within the Prut catchment, but are NOT geographically adjacent.

2. The proposed changes in management practice that should be promoted are similar in both countries:
 - Integrated cropping management: crop rotation and strip cropping
 - Cover and green manure crop
 - Critical area planting
 - Vegetative filter strips
 - Grassed waterways
 - Contour farming.
3. Direct beneficiaries (advisory) potentially include ACSA (the extension service) in Moldova and NAAC (local advisors), COSCA and its network in Romania.
4. Related actors include local authorities, target farmers’ groups, research and educational units, EPAs, environmental NGOs (Danube Environmental Forum member organizations if existing in the area), Prut River basin Committee, Ministries of Agriculture, the "Romanian Waters" National Authority, the Moldovan Waters Consortium, Farmers’ Associations and local media.
5. Proposed national activities include:
 - Training, awareness raising and demonstration pilot activities
 - Training of trainers, of local advisors, and of demo site farmers;
 - Development of guidelines and info materials
 - Development of methodology and extension techniques.
6. Proposed trans-boundary activities include:
 - Exchange of Information Programme
 - Joint study-tours (field trips) for trainers and advisors
 - Common workshops
 - Exchange of lecturers
 - Results’ dissemination on the occasion of the international topic related events
 - Development of guidelines and supporting info materials.

“Introduction of Good Agricultural Practice in Odessa Oblast” - Ukraine

Facilitator: Dr Heinz Strubenhoff, GFA Terra Systems, Hamburg, Germany

The Ukrainian delegation reported some problems with the development of an appropriate pilot project proposal – particularly since there is no experience of similar projects and no government institutions to participate as counterparts. Discussions will continue after the workshop.

Working Group 2: Bosnia & Herzegovina (including Republica Srpska), Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro

Discussions in the working group confirmed the relevance and feasibility of the three pilot projects proposed:

- Non-chemical Weed Control in the Sava River Basin
- Upland Manure Management in the Sava and Bosna River Basins
- Good Agricultural Practice in the Intensive Agricultural Region of Vojvodina

Because of the significant trans-boundary co-operation proposed the working group did not split into smaller groups but continued with a roundtable discussion elaborating the proposals according to the following format:

- Pilot areas
- Changes in management practice to promote
- Direct beneficiaries (advisory)
- Related actors (project implementation)
- National activities (capacity building/advisory)
- Trans-boundary activities (dissemination etc.)

Conclusions and Recommendations from Workshop

The workshop successfully brought together a cross-section of relevant policy-makers and representatives of agricultural extension services and NGOs from the 7 priority central and lower DRB countries to participate in discussions on the development of pilot projects for promotion of BAP in the region.

The workshop was evaluated favourably by participants with the majority considering that the workshop’s objectives had been met – namely to:

1. raise awareness of the potential role of pilot projects and extension services in promoting the reduction of agricultural pollution in the DRB (priority countries)
2. define the function of pilot projects as a “tool” for a) building the capacity of extension services and b) supporting policy reform for agricultural pollution control
3. discuss and agree on clear selection criteria for pilot projects
4. present outlines of the proposed BAP pilot projects for review and discussion
5. refine the proposed pilot projects.

The workshop also provided an excellent opportunity for the GFA Terra Systems/Avalon consultancy team to receive feedback on their work-to-date and to make relevant corrections/contributions to existing project outputs.

Recommendations

The key recommendations to arise from the workshop are to:

- accept the pre-requisites (i.e. essential characteristics of a pilot project), selection criteria and guiding principles for the design of pilot projects that were discussed and amended by the workshop participants and apply them appropriately
- accept the consolidated pilot project proposals and elaborate them accordingly.

Annex 1: Final Workshop Programme



UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project - Project RER/01/G32

“Policies for the Control of Agricultural Point and Non-point Sources of Pollution” and “Pilot Projects on Agricultural Pollution Reduction” (Project Outputs 1.2 and 1.3)

FINAL WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

“Developing Pilot Projects for the Promotion of Best Agricultural Practice in the Danube River Basin (DRB)”

Workshop Dates 19 – 20 January, 2004

Workshop Location Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (ASAS), Mărăști Avenue 61, Bucharest

Organised by GFA Terra/Avalon Consultants

Workshop Objectives

- Raise awareness of the potential role of pilot projects and extension services in promoting the reduction of agricultural pollution.
- Define more precisely the function of BAP pilot projects as a “tool” for building the capacity of extension services and related organisations to support the necessary policy reforms for reducing agricultural pollution in priority DRB countries.
- Discuss and agree on clear selection criteria for pilot projects.
- Present outlines of the proposed BAP pilot projects for review and discussion.
- Refine proposed BAP pilot projects, including agreement and elaboration of objectives, partners, activities, implementation arrangements etc.

Sunday, 18 January 2004

Arrive in Bucharest – accommodation at Best Western Parc Hotel, 3-5 Poligrafifei Avenue

Monday, 19 January

09:00	Coffee
9:30	Welcome and Introduction to the Aims and Context of the Project and Workshop
9:45	Opening speech by <i>Prof. Dr. Hera, President of the Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Science</i>
10:15	Introduction from all participants

SESSION 1: Setting the Scene

10:30	Conclusions from the Zagreb BAP Workshop (October 2003) – <i>Dr Mark Redman, GFA Terra Systems</i>
10:45	Introduction to the Concept of Using Pilot Projects to Promote BAP – <i>Dr Mark Redman, GFA Terra Systems</i>
11:15	Questions
11:30	Coffee Break
11:45	The Concept of BAP in the Floodplains of the River Leine – <i>Dr Josef Strottdrees, German Chamber of Agriculture</i>
12:05	Previous Experiences with Pilot Projects in the DRB – <i>Martien Lankester, Avalon</i>
12:25	BAP and Extension Services in Romania – <i>Dr Cristian Kleps, ASAS</i>
12:45	Questions

13:00 Lunch

SESSION 2: Introducing the Pilot projects

14:30	Presentation of Proposed BAP Pilot Projects for Priority DRB Countries by representatives of the National Partner Organisations/National Consultants (10 min each) Ukraine – <i>Natalia Pogozeva</i> Moldova – <i>Corneliu Eftodi</i> Romania – <i>Christian Kleps</i> Bulgaria – <i>Stela Valchovska</i> Serbia & Montenegro – <i>Vlade Zaric</i> Bosnia & Herzegovina / Republic Srpska – <i>Hamid Custovic/Mihajlo Markovic</i> Croatia – <i>Ramona Franic</i>
15:30	Questions
16:00	Coffee Break
16:15	Presentation and Discussion of Selection Criteria and Guiding Principles for Pilot Projects
18:00	Close
20:00	Dinner

Tuesday, 20 January 2003

08:45	Arrival and coffee
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SESSION 3: Discussing the Concept of Proposed Pilot Projects and Refining Projects

09:00	Recap on the previous day and briefing for Working Groups
10:15	Coffee Break
10:15	<i>Working Groups</i> – Further development of individual project proposals Coffee and refreshments available in the Working Groups <i>Working Groups</i> – Continue discussion and prepare short group presentations Breakout Group 1: <i>Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria</i> Breakout Group 2: <i>Serbia & Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina (incl. Republic Srpska), Croatia</i>
11:45	Feedback from working groups – conclusions and recommendations on pilot projects
12:30	Concluding session etc.
13:00	Lunch

Depart from Bucharest

Annex 2: LANDCARE Pilot Project (case study from the UK)

Example:

“LANDCARE” Pilot Project

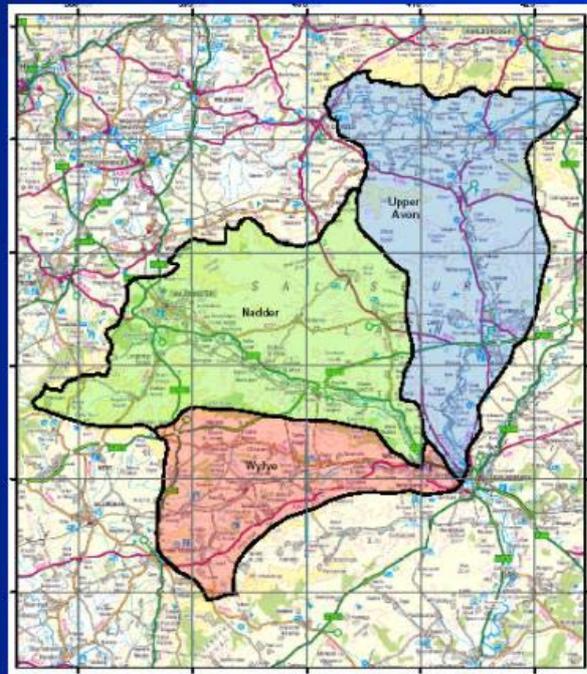
A catchment-based approach to **DEVELOPING** and **DISSEMINATING** “good agricultural practice” for the control of agricultural run-off in the South of England

Mark Redman
GFA Terra Systems/Avalon



GFA Terra Systems

- River Avon catchment, southern England
- Approx. 1 000 km²
- Wet climate (650 mm/year) and hilly landscape



GFA Terra Systems

- Mixed farming systems

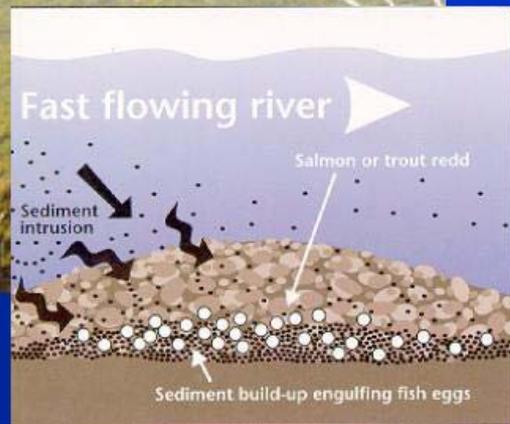
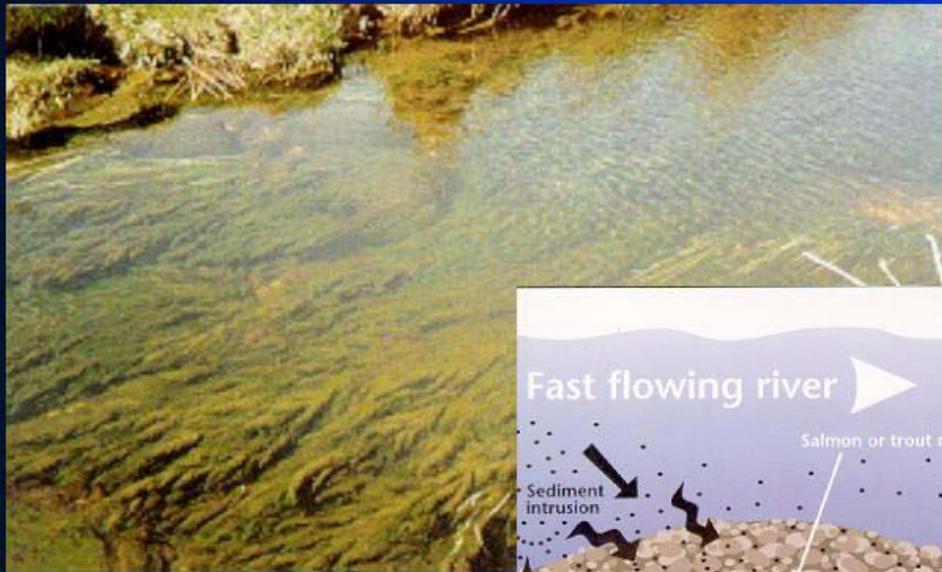
Dairy/sheep pastures
Forage maize
Winter/spring winter
Winter/spring barley
Oilseed rape

- Range of farm sizes = 120 – 1 000 ha
- 95% of soils have structural problems causing enhanced run-off



The Problem...





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The Solution...



...problem solving through **partnership**



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The Partnership

12 **partner organisations**, including:

- Ministry of Agriculture (*DEFRA*)
- Ministry of Environment (*Environment Agency*)
- National Farmers Union
- Regional Water Company
- County and District Local Government Offices
- Local Environmental NGOs

+ **100 local farmers**

+ **10 local farm advisers**



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The Process

- Partnership is led by a **Local Project Officer (LPO)**
- LPO is responsible for managing the **ADVISORY PROCESS** necessary for developing and disseminating **GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE** for the reduction of agricultural run-off which is appropriate to **LOCAL CONTEXT**



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Step 1 - Establish farmer network (80% of local farmers are participating)

Step 2 – Set-up awareness-raising activities:

- Local newspapers etc.
- Farm visits in high risk areas
- Wet weather catchment inspection



Step 3 – Discuss and agree “good practice”

- Partner organisations and farmers meet to discuss problems and potential solutions
- Consult with appropriate experts and agree appropriate management practices for the catchment

Step 4 - Disseminate “good practice” in catchment

- Establish demonstration plots on farms in high risk areas
- Organise demonstration days for farmers
- Monthly technical newsletter to all farmers (2 pages)
- Incorporate “good practice” into management plan to reduce risk of run-off on whole farm



Step 5 - Develop expertise of local farm advisers

- Train advisers in appropriate land management techniques
- Train advisers in whole farm planning techniques
- Information for local advisers on available funding sources i.e. land management and capital grant schemes
- Simple certification/accreditation system for local advisers



— GFA Terra Systems —

Some Lessons Learnt

- Must involve and listen to farmers at early stage in development of BAP pilot project
- Always ensure that provide the “**right BAP message in the right place at the right time**” to farmers – the “wrong message in the wrong place” causes major problems
- Do not work with farm advisers/extension service unless they are **actually** used and respected by farmers
- If resources are available, money should be spent on **monitoring** the environmental impact of pilot project activities



— GFA Terra Systems —

Annex 3: Workshop Evaluation

(handed out to all participants – **27 sheets returned**)

Workshop title	Workshop on “Developing Pilot Projects for the Promotion of BAP in the Danube River Basin”						
Date of workshop	From 19to 20 January 2003 in Bucharest (RO)						
How long before the workshop start did you receive the invitation?	1-6 weeks						
With the invitation, did you receive the agenda and the objectives?	agenda	27 yes ..0 no					
	objectives	25 yes 2 no					
	background material	17 yes 10 no					
Were the objectives spelled out at the beginning of the workshop?	27 yes 0 no						
Did the workshop fully meet its predefined objectives?	19 yes 8 partly 0 no						
If not, please tell us, why.	...;						
Please score the following criteria with 5 being the best and 1 being the lowest mark		5	4	3	2	1	
Did the workshop achieve all its objectives?	fully	10	15	1	1		Not at all
How was the level of participation?	very high	12	12	3			very low
How was the moderation of the workshop?	excellent	19	7	1			very poor
How would you rank the quality of results?	very good	10	14	2	1		very poor
What is the applicability of the results to your working context?	very applicable	11	13	3			not at all applicable
Please give us some recommendations of what could be improved next time such a workshop is held.	<i>Be careful with selection of the venue (theatre style not suitable for the workshop, acoustic of the room bad); Accommodation and working hall should be closer together; Background information should be sent early enough (2x);Less presentations, more work in groups; More time for discussions; Criteria for pilot project proposals should be defined at the beginning of the project; More information relating methodological approach of the project; Better preparation of the process; Mark is great facilitator</i>						

Annex 4: List of Workshop Participants

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