



Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica Slovenije

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR FARMING IN UPPER MEŽIŠKA VALLEY

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WHERE

Charintia – Mežiška Valley:

- 330 km²
- 400-1.200 m above the sea
- 70% of forests
- 5.418 ha of land in use
- 589 farms
- 72 of organic farms





WHY

Challenge:

- Long tradition of mining and metallurgical activities
- Accumulation of heavy metals in soil and plants
- Affected area:
 - 1650 ha of land in use
 - 181 farms
- No clear guidance for farmers
- Initiative of local stakeholders





PROJECT PARTNERS

Agriculture

- Farmers from degraded area

Advising

- Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia (public farmers advisory service-pFAS)

Research

- Institute for Environmental Research ERICo

Public body

- Institute of Public Health Ravne na Koroškem



PROJECT STRUCTURE

- **Time line:** February 2012 – October 2012
- **Objectives:**
 - Asses the situation
 - Find innovative solutions and
 - prepare technological instructions

Phases of work: 1 Creation of operational working group
2 Preparation of the plan of work
3 Preparation of instructions for farming
4 Evaluation of instructions and implementation in practice

Funding: The project was funded from the state budget for the program of work for pFAS on CAFS, which was appointed Coordinator of the project.



SETTING UP THE GROUP

- **Key experts and stakeholders were invited to collaborate:**
 - Biotechnical Faculty
 - Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences
 - Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
 - Institute of Public Health
 - Institute for Ecological Research ERICo
 - Public farmers advisory service (pFAS) for the Carinthia region
 - representatives of farmers from the area



PREPARATION OF WORK PLAN - the first meeting

- Review of existing research and analytical results
- Standardization and guidelines for the sampling and analytics: Institute of Public Health, BF
- Identification of contaminated sites and the characteristics of farming in these areas: CAFS-PFAS
- Preparation of compendium of results: pFAS – CAFS
- Preparation of a range of measures to reduce the intake of heavy metals in plants and over plants, humans and animals, selection of agricultural crops: the whole group
- Preparation of written instructions: pFAS - CAFS preparation of a draft, supplemented by other partners
- Evaluation in the practice: pFAS – CAFS; **deadline: at least 1 year** and addition on the basis of new experiences



CONTINUING OF THE WORK

- **Two meetings of all partners:**
 - Extensive discussion and exchange of experience
 - Review of the work already done and identification of obstacles
- **The fourth meeting:**
 - ERICo, Institute of Public Health and pFAS
 - Review the draft material and preparation of final version.



COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PART OF THE PROJECT

Preparation of instructions

- **The result** of this part of the project are written **instructions for farming** Upper Mežiška valley
- The characteristics of farming in Zg. Mežiška Valley (natural resources, structure of farms)
- Spatial identification of contaminated sites
- Measures for reduction of intake of heavy metals in plants and entering the food chain
- The definition of contamination of cattle feed
- The state of contamination of food of animal origin and
- measures to prevent the introduction of pollutants into human body



EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION IN PRACTICE 2nd PART OF THE PROJECT

- **Presentation** at the Ministry for Agriculture and the Environment
- **Evaluation and implementation of instructions in practice:**
 - 2.1 Theoretical farmers' awareness raising lectures, thematic circles
 - 2.2 Practical test of recommendations
 - 2.3 Monitoring and review of results
 - 2.4 Aquainting with examples of good practices
- **Public promotion:**
 - Articles in professional journals (Kmečki Glas, Zelena dežela, Kmetovalec)
 - Articles and contributions in local newspapers and on the radio
 - Press releases for journalists at a press conference



EXPERIENCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Successful is **individual work** with farmers or in the **form of interest circles** (groups)
- Important for farmers is **to see best practices and experiments**
- **Idea** for the project **must come from the practice**, “from the bottom-up” approach
- **Equality of group members** and the corresponding **financial support** are important
- **Experienced coordinator** of the group and **responsible partners** are the key of success
- **Agricultural consultants** are good group coordinators and a link between professionals and farmers (farmers know and trust them, implementation is easier and more successful)
- At the beginning it is necessary to **set clear objectives, share tasks** and **set deadlines** for implementation
- **Regular communication** between partners to determine how to run the project, solve the problems and determine critical points is crucial



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

