



## ROMANIA

# Agricultural Pollution Control Project

### Project Summary and Scope

The Agricultural Pollution Control Project is aimed at “increasing significantly the use of environment-friendly agricultural and household practices in rural areas in order to ultimately reduce the discharge of nutrients and other agricultural pollutants into the Danube River and Black Sea through integrated land and water management.”

In order to facilitate the design of an integrated intervention covering the entire nation, a pilot project was designed and is currently under way in Calarasi county. The location was selected based on urgent pollution challenges associated with inappropriate manure storage in the area.

#### Component 1: Activities in Calarasi county:

- Manure management.
- The promotion of environment-friendly agricultural practices.
- The integrated management of Boianu-Sticleanu polder.
- The ecological restoration of Calarasi-Raul polder.
- Soil and water quality monitoring.

#### Component 2: Strengthening national policy and regulatory capacity.

This component includes support to the Ministry of Environment and Water Management and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development for: (i) supporting the implementation of the Nitrates Directive and the harmonisation of legislation with EU requirements; (ii) developing a code of good agricultural practices; and (iii) strengthening the capacity of the National Authority for Ecological Agriculture in its efforts to promote scientific organic farming and land-use management.

#### Component 3: Public awareness activities and replication strategy.

The project supports increasing public awareness: (i) in Calarasi county, to familiarise the population with the concepts and to help bring about the behavioural changes necessary to the success of the project in the seven selected villages, and replication throughout the county; (ii) at national level, to disseminate information on the benefits of the project activities and to promote replication at national level; and (iii) at regional level, in the Black Sea riparian countries to promote the pilot project as a possible model for replication.

#### INVESTMENT

Government contribution USD 5.65 million, including USD 1 million from the World Bank-funded Agricultural Support Services Project

GEF USD 5.15 million

**Total USD 10.8 million**

#### PROJECT DURATION

2001–2007

#### NUTRIENT CHALLENGES

- Inappropriate storage and use of livestock manure
- The large percentage of cropped area without nutrient management systems

#### EARLY NUTRIENT BMP “WINS

- The most successful practices in terms of adoption rates were manure management, crop rotations using leguminous plants, soil testing, nutrient management plans and the planting of forest windbreaks. These environment-friendly practices apply to arable and livestock farms of all sizes



#### Component 4: Project management and implementation.

The Ministry of Environment and Water Management has established a project management unit located in the Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development to handle financial matters such as procurement, disbursements, the maintenance of project accounts and financial monitoring; the monitoring and evaluation of all project activities; as well as the coordination of implementation by the various local and national agencies, including the field agencies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development and the Ministry of Environment and Water Management.

### Best Practices

- **Manure management** — Provision of incentives to communes and individual households for the installation of improved manure storage facilities and equipment for manure collection and application in seven communes.
- **Promotion of environment-friendly agricultural practices** — Nutrient management, shrub rows, narrow vegetation barriers, conservation tillage, tree planting and riparian buffer strips; as well as the demonstration of integrated crop and nutrient management.
- **Integrated management** of Boianu-Sticleanu polder and the ecological restoration of part of Calarasi-Raul polder.

### Additional Benefits

Nationally, the country will benefit through:

- Improved surface water and groundwater quality in the watershed pilot area and consequently in the river Prut.
- Improved agricultural productivity as a result of better agricultural practices.
- Progress towards compliance with EU directives.
- Increased capacity building of local institutions, such as the State Ecological Inspectorate and the Ministry of Public Health.
- Sustainable rural growth and development through environmentally sound agricultural practices.

Internationally, benefits will accrue through:

- Continual reduction in the discharge of nutrients and sediments into the river Danube and the Black Sea and accompanying improvements in local and Black Sea water quality.
- Improving habitats for migratory waterfowl and a variety of endangered species.
- Carbon sequestration in grasslands, arable land and forests.

### Key BMP Indicators

The success of the project can be illustrated through four key performance indicators:

**Indicator 1:** The percentage of households with livestock in the project area adopting improved manure-handling facilities.

**Indicator 2:** The percentage of arable land under nutrient management systems, including crop rotation, crop nutrient management with soil testing, and the use of organic manure.

**Indicator 3:** The percentage of arable land on which environment-friendly practices are used.

**Indicator 4:** Trends in water quality at designated sites.

### Further Information

<http://www.apcp.ro/>



#### 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@getf.org](mailto:chuck@getf.org)