

"Establishing Operational Groups under Rural Development Programmes" Ljubljana 25. – 26. 03. 2014

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







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

WHY





PROJECT PARTNERS

Agriculture

Farmers from degraded area

Advising

 Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia (public farmers advisory servise-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



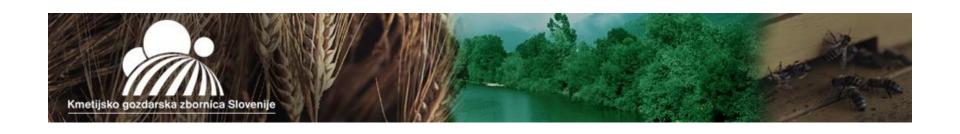
PREPARATION OF WORK PLAN - the first meeting

- Review of existing research and analitical 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



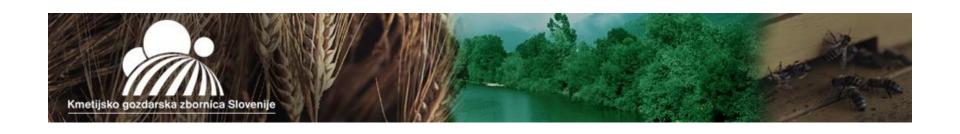
CONTINUING OF THE WORK

- 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 polutants 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 <u>farmers' awareness raising lectures</u>, <u>thematic circles</u>
 - 2.2 Practical test of recommendations
 - 2.3 Monitoring and review of results
 - 2.4 Aquainting with <u>examples of good practices</u>

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!

