



Valsts SIA

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**Meeting of agriculture consultants of municipalities of Gauja River
Basin District
discussing participation in river basin management
Within the frame of the project “European Network of
Municipalities and Rivers” (ENMaR)**

*23 NOVEMBER 2006, GUEST-HOUSE „MILL OF NĪTAURE”
Report*

The goals of the workshop:

- To discuss about development of agriculture and restrictions and shortcomings in connection with impact on environment and water resources;
- To introduce best practice examples of environmentally friendly agriculture in Latvia

Opening

Jolanta Bāra, Vides projekti, opened the event, introduced to the participants with its goals as well as with agenda. Further, the project experts held the presentations which introduced with the results of ENMaR events, as well as presenting main findings with regard to pressures and impacts evaluated in the Gauja river Basin district based on available information and discussions with workshop participants..

Proceedings

Introduction to the INTERREG IIIC financed project “European Network of Municipalities and Rivers” (ENMaR): main aims, tasks and planned activities.

Insight view in year 2005 -2006 in ENMAR results of realized activities, main cognitions in order of load and impact assessment in Gauja River basin district:

Tourism and water management, territory planning, agriculture and forestry, water supply and drainage management

Ingrīda Brēmere, Vides projekti, introduced participants with Project, which is co-financed by EU INTERREG IIIC program. Project is implemented from 2005. until 2007. years and involved partners are from Germany, Sweden, Spain, England and Latvia. Goal of Project – to develop cooperation network between municipalities to support implementation of WFD. It was explained that similar networks of municipalities will be developed in 5 countries. There will be prepared guide for municipalities and institutions, which will contain best practice examples from all countries. Ingrīda Brēmere explained about economic sectors covered by Project, importance of these sectors in Latvia and Gauja RBD.

Water structure directive. Plans of water basin management in Gauja river basin. Polluted water objects in Gauja River basin, activities needed for improvement of situation.

LVĢMA, Department of direction of water basins , Linda Bušmane

Linda Bušmane introduced with procedure of implementation of WFD in Latvia – time scale, activities. She presented information about Gauja RBD – water objects, protected areas, evaluation of load and impacts (diffuse and point pollution sources). L. Bušmane listed concrete water objects, where load of point source pollution is significant. Participants were introduced with cartographic material available.

Discussion:

- Participants found interesting facts about high pollution level along eastern border of Latvia. There is area of Veļikaja RBD, where pollution can come from Russia.
- How to evaluate diffuse run-off from forest lands? Run-off from forest is considered as background pollution. There is the investigation started in „Silava” institute about forest run-off.
 - How River basin management plans will be prepared – procedure? Public involvement will be achieved through Advisory Councils of RBD’s . Management plans are in very initial phase of preparation (there is one pilot area, where plan is completed – Salaca RBD – part of Gauja RBD).

Pilot Project experience of development of Salaca River basin protection plan/Assessment of agriculture run – off impact.

Mr. Māris Ozoliņš, Group 93, Latvia

Māris Ozoliņš introduced participants with Salaca RBD management plan – development process and main conclusions. He emphasized evaluation of agricultural run-offs, pointing at fact, that vast majority of pollution come from diffuse points and it is very difficult to diminish it.

Discussion:

- About water treatment plants – is it always necessary to build expensive treatment facilities, if main part of pollution comes from diffuse sources? Maybe it is better to put efforts on diminishing them?

Control of plant protection agent usement.

Vidzeme regional department of state plant protection agency, Dita Vanaga un Tatjana Saričeva

Dita Vanaga and Tatjana Saričeva introduced participants with legal requirements of use of plant protection agents. Herbicides, pesticides and fungicides can be significant cause of chemical pollution of water; therefore it is crucial to follow rules. Lectures listed requirements in trade and transport of these chemicals.

Discussion:

- Question about practical work of inspectors – how they evaluate pesticide and herbicide use on fields. Dita Vanaga explained methods.
- Discussion – is it possible to get high yield without using of plant protection agents? Jolanta Bāra asked participants to wait for presentation of organic farm owner G. Dolmanis and ask him to explain.

Requirements defined in normative acts for farmers for provision of water protection (Law of protective zone, MK Nr. 628 Special environmental requirements for realization of activities, which calls pollution in animal stands, A,B,C category licenses):

Regional environment board of Valmiera, director of license department Gunārs Ģeida

Gunārs Ģeida explained requirements of legal acts concerning water protection and agriculture. These are Law of protective zones, MK Nr. 628 Special environmental requirements for realization of activities, which causes pollution in animal stands, A,B,C category licenses. G.Ģeida told that there are not significant restrictions for farmers and existing have to be understood and executed.

Discussion:

- Discussion about forest management in protective zones around water bodies – is it really help to provide water quality?

Example of good practice – farm „Lielkrūzes”

Guntars Dolmanis

G. Dolmanis told about basic principles of organic farming and about his farm. Farm is situated in beautiful landscape of Piebalga, building complex partly consists of historical buildings. Farmer manages 80 hectares and management areas are forestry, organic agriculture and fishery

- This is fully organic farm. Interesting – giving up use of artificial fertilizers did not diminished amount of crops and income.
- One of important questions for farmers is attraction of funding for development.
- Sometimes problems are caused by bureaucracy – reports, papers. It takes time and need special knowledge.
- It is necessary to have political support for “green farming”.

Participants were interested to visit this organic farm.

Conclusions:

Majority of participants were interested to participate in similar events to get to know more about water pollution and means to diminish it.

Local municipalities and landowners lack specific and reliable information about impact of agriculture and forestry practices on water quality. There are a lot of data compiled during preparatory phase of the river basin management plans, but shortage is delivery of this information in appropriate way to local stakeholders. There are some sectors (for example, forest management impact) where are no reliable data (ongoing investigations).