

PROJECT RECORD AVALON

2003-2006 “Development of Organic Agriculture in South East Europe”

The project of development of organic agriculture in South Eastern Europe has been granted by HIVOS (two years financed, two additional years committed) following highly positive external evaluation of the preceding project: Introduction of Organic Agriculture in South Eastern Europe. The current project continues and intensifies the most successful elements of the previous project (training programmes, organisational strengthening and demonstration of practices) in particular the last two years: increase and emphasis on market development of organic products in South Eastern Europe.

(Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking ‘HIVOS’, Stability Pact for the Balkan)

2003-2005 “Towards sustainable agriculture in Aksy, Chatkal & Ala-buka regions” in Kyrgyzstan

This is a project implemented in co-operation with Aksy Regional Social Society ‘ULGU’. Focus of the project is the institutional capacity building in the field of organic agriculture, in three particular regions, situated in the south of the country. The role of Avalon within the project lies in providing trainings to ULGU staff and partners. In the end-phase of the project, development of processing and marketing activities for organic products is foreseen.

(Hivos)

2003-2004 “Strengthening county and district capacity for agri-environmental programming and implementation” in Lithuania

General aim of this project is to raise and increase institutional capacity at national and local level for the formulation and implementation of future agri-environmental programmes funded by the EU. As with other agri-environmental projects implemented by Avalon, the operation is carried out within the framework of SAPARD Measure 6 (Environmentally-friendly Agricultural methods) and the EU Rural Development Regulation. One of the essential outputs of the project is to support local stakeholders (Ministries, the Paying Agency and the Agricultural Advisory Service) in preparing and implementing schemes of subsidies to farmers introducing environmentally friendly agricultural methods. Project partners include DLV (as lead partner), DLG, IEEP and LGF.

(Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs: Senter)

2002-2006 “Structural strengthening of the network for sustainable agriculture in Central and Eastern Europe”

General purpose of the project is to establish a formal network out of the already existing informal network of Avalon, consisting of organisations with which Avalon has worked in the past and in the present. The overall goal is to build and strengthen institutional capacity for organic agriculture and agri-environment. The long term objective is to put biodiversity and preservation of traditional landscapes on the political agenda. Generally it aims to stimulate public debate on sustainable rural development at local, regional and national level.

Recently, efforts are undertaken to acquire funding at the level of EU and at the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality next to the already committed financial support of the Dutch Ministry of VROM. Eventually, it is intended to establish a network supported by three financial pillars.

It is expected that the network activities will evolve into a central theme for Avalon, fully in line with mission statement and statutes.

(Dutch Ministry of VROM-Environment)

2002-2003 “AE Poland, agri-environment and afforestation”

As other pre-accession countries, Poland must be prepared to meet EU regulations and requirements regarding the implementation of agri-environmental programmes. These programmes must comply with EU regulations to ensure that farming practices and environmental aspects are integrated and harmonised. Focus of the operation will be the provision and extension of knowledge and training to agricultural advisors, farmers and local administrators. Project partners are Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG, lead partner), ABC/Poland, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), World Conservation Union (IUCN) and Scanagri Finland.

(EU: PHARE)

2002-2003 “Danube Regional Project”

Within the Danube river basin, environmental problems have arisen due to over-enrichment of the water with organic matter. Also competition for water, exploitation of surface and groundwater form a threat for the biodiversity of water, wetlands and forests. To reduce pollution, individual countries will be assisted in designing new pollution control policies. The project will therefore identify necessary legal and policy measures. Avalon has formed in this project a consortium with GFA Terra Systems (lead partner).

(United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Development Programme, Global Environmental Fund)

2002-2003 “Grassland conservation in the Abava river valley in Latvia”

Within a time span of eighteen months, a project is being implemented by Avalon in co-operation with the Latvian Fund for Nature (LFN) and Paul Terwan Consultancy to integrate grassland management in dairy farming. Therefore, economic incentives have to be provided to prevent land abandonment. Furthermore, co-operation between farmers, conservationists and policy makers has to be stimulated. These long term objectives will be achieved by the establishment of a knowledge extension service centre in the region and improvement of grazing facilities. The project is carried out within the framework of the ‘Eurograssland Activities’, initiated by the Dutch Province of Overijssel.

(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA/Programme International Nature Management)

2002 “Workshop Developing a National Action Plan for Organic Agriculture in Armenia”

In July a workshop was organised, aimed at formulating a National Action Plan for Organic Agriculture for Armenia. Many relevant local stakeholders, including government organisations, NGO’s extension workers, researchers and consumers were invited to participate actively in order to create synergy between all these different fields of expertise.

Eventually, all participants committed themselves to contribute to a process leading to a National Action Plan for Organic Agriculture, realised in 2003.

(USDA-MAP Armenia)

2002 “Organic Agriculture in Moldova”

This project intended to create a foundation for a larger future project to introduce organic agriculture and low input agriculture in Moldova. The contribution of Avalon consisted out of education, training and research activities. The focuses of the training were the practical aspects of organic farming at farm level and knowledge dissemination. The project was setup in co-operation with BIOS.

(Cordaid)

2001-2004 “European Conservation Farming Initiative (ECFI)”

In co-operation with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Avalon is implementing a feasibility study for a financing and technical assistance structure for agribusinesses in CEE to support biodiversity. In four countries relevant stakeholders and policies were identified. The selection of pipeline investment projects is nearing completion in two countries.

(IFC-Global Environmental Fund, Lottery Stichting Doen-NL, Ministry of Economic Affairs-NL)

2001-2003 “Agri-environment programmes in Croatia”

The introduction of agri-environment programmes in Croatia is being prepared by developing pilot agri-environment schemes in selected areas and by developing recommendations for national implementation of agri-environment programmes. A national working group, including representatives from Ministries, research institutes and NGOs, is involved in the process. The project uses the EU Regulation 1257/99 as framework. Avalon leads a small consortium in which IEEP and Ecologica are involved.

(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA, Programme International Nature Management)

2001 “Conference Organic Food and Farming Towards Partnership and Action in Europe”

Copenhagen 10-11 May, 2001, This conference was co-organised by Avalon. The aim of this conference, which was attended by 350 participants from all over Europe, was to start the process towards a European action plan for organic food and farming.

(Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries)

2001 “Summit on Environment and Sustainable Development of the Danube Carpathian Region”

Bucharest 29-30 April, 2001. Avalon was invited to present its ideas on sustainable agricultural development at this summit.

(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries)

2001 “Conference The Relation between Agriculture and Nature Management”

This conference for high level policy makers of Ministries of Agriculture and Environment from all accession countries was held in Wassenaar-NL in January 2001. Avalon contributed to the background document and participated in the conference as observer.

(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries)

2001-2002 “Establishment of Natura 2000 network in the Slovak Republic”

Capacity building for development of a Natura 2000 network in Slovakia, including support for implementation of Birds Directive and Habitats Directive.

(Senter-Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs)

2000-2001 “Seed Potato Production and Marketing Project - Republika Srpska”

Experiment with organic seed potato growing in Republica Srpska, BiH.

(Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs)

2000-2004 “OAT farm, organic agriculture training farm”

A business plan for this training farm for disadvantaged children in Romania was drawn up, land was purchased and farm buildings are being constructed.

(FARA -UK Charity- land purchase from a private donation)

2000-2001 “Feasibility study for the establishment of a fattening enterprise in CZR”

This project aimed at realising plans for fattening farms for organic beef in the Czech Republic. AHOLD-CZ is interested to sell organic beef.
(PESP-Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs)

2000-2001 “Agri-Environment Know-How”

This project has increased know how on the subject of agri-environment with partners in 10 CEE countries by organising a seminar and expert missions and producing newsletters. (European Commission (DG Environment), British Ecological Society)

2000-2001 “Information materials AE”

This project produced the AE synthesis report, a re-edited AE manual and an AE brochure.
(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA/fund/Programme International Nature Management)

2000 “International Team Meeting AE”

This project involved the organisation of an additional ITM for the partners in the Agri-environment projects.
(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA/fund/Programme International Nature Management)

1999-2003 “Introduction of Organic Farming and Low Input Sustainable Agriculture in the Balkan Countries”

Introduction of organic agriculture in six countries/entities in the post-conflict area on the Balkan (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia).
The aim of the project was the enhancement of organic agriculture in SEE through capacity building of national and regional organic agriculture and environmental organisations. In all countries the project worked with motivated and skilled partners. The project largely fulfilled its goals using the instruments of organisational strengthening, demonstration of good practice and the two component training programme. Experts from participating countries picked up professional contacts again.
(Hivos, Stability Pact for the Balkan)

1999 “European Conference on Organic Agriculture”

Avalon together with Eurotech (Austria) organized a conference on the development of organic agriculture in the European Union in Vienna on May 27 and 28, 1999.
(European Commission/DG VI and XI, Austrian Ministries of Agriculture and Environment)

1998 “Agriculture, environment and rural sustainability in Europe ”

Avalon contributed to the publishing of a brochure with case studies from different European countries concerning the effects of modern agriculture on the environment.
(Pro-Natura, Friends of the Earth, Switzerland)

1998-1999 “Groupe de Bruges”

Avalon gave input in the debates on CAP reform and Agenda 2000 of this group, and was involved in the organisation of a conference on the agricultural reform in the EU, held in Barcelona in 1999.
(FPH-France)

1998 “Communication Agri-environmental programs ”

Avalon visited the 10 CEE-countries involved in the projects on Agri-environmental programs to speak with high representatives of both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment to gain

support for agri-environment pilots under SAPARD.

(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA, Programme International Nature Management)

1998-2001 “Marketing of organic products in Czech Republic”

In co-operation with local experts Avalon supported the development of a market for organic meat products in the Czech Republic, by helping to create appropriate structures for production, processing and marketing. An organic meat market is expected to sustain extensive grazing on permanent grasslands in the Czech Republic.

(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA, Programme International Nature Management)

1998-2001 “Agri-environment programmes in Bulgaria/Romania”

The introduction of agri-environment programmes in Bulgaria and Romania was prepared by developing pilot agri-environment schemes in selected areas in each country and by developing recommendations for national implementation of agri-environment programmes. In each country a national working group, including representatives from Ministries, research institutes and NGOs, was involved in the process. The project used the EU Regulation 2078/92, now EU Regulation 1257/99 as framework, and thus contributed to approximation of CEE legislation to the acquis of the EU. Avalon led a small consortium including IEEP and Veen Ecology which cooperated with local organisations. The project resulted in increased insight in agri-environment policies and in interesting pilot programmes for the selected areas.

(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA, Programme International Nature Management)

1997-2001 “Marketing of organic products in NE Poland”

With a local expert team and four groups of farmers in NE Poland Avalon developed business plans for marketing of organic products, supervised by a Polish national steering group, to show examples of how farmers who undertake environmentally friendly practices can develop local markets for their products.

(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA, Programme International Nature Management).

1997-2000 “Agri-environment programmes in seven CEE countries”

The introduction of agri-environment programmes in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia was prepared by developing pilot agri-environment schemes in selected areas in each country and by developing recommendations for national implementation of agri-environment programmes. In each country a national working group, including representatives from Ministries, research institutes and NGOs, was involved in the process. The project used the EU Regulation 2078/92, now EU Regulation 1257/99 as framework, and thus contributed to approximation of CEE legislation to the acquis of the EU. Avalon led a small consortium including IEEP and Veen Ecology which cooperated with local organisations. The project resulted in increased insight in agri-environment policies and in interesting pilot programmes for the selected areas.

(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA, Programme International Nature Management)

1997 “Regional study on marketing of organic products in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary”

For the former project this study was implemented with experts from the pertaining countries, coordinated by Avalon.

(Danube Environmental Programme, EU DGI-Phare)

1996-2000 “A feasibility study on the implementation of an agri-environment programme in North-East Poland”

This is a similar project as the former, but added were actual tests with 60 farmers in four areas in North-East Poland. Also here a national working group, including Ministries and different experts, was involved in the process.

(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries)

1996-1999 “Sustainable agriculture and steppe biodiversity in Russia and Ukraine”

In this project the feasibility of a rural development model was investigated, integrating sustainable use practices with the maintenance and restoration of biodiversity in steppe zones. It showed a close relationship between biodiversity, farming and cultural landscapes in the steppe zone, leading directly to a wider applicability of management practices and the development of a national policy for sustainable agriculture.

(IUCN European programme, Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MATRA, Programme International Nature Management)

1996 “Mission Needs Inventorisation/project identification Sustainable Agriculture in Georgia”

At the end of this year a mission took place to inventorize basic needs and priorities for facilitating and accelerating the development of sustainable agriculture. This mission gave also the opportunity to identify potential local partners and available local expertise. During the mission, emphasis was laid on development and opportunities at both macro (national) and micro level (organisations).

(Bureau for Central and Eastern Europe; Cordaid)

1995-1999 “Demonstration Centres for Sustainable Agriculture in the Danube basin”

Three demonstration centres have been established in Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, each combining a demonstration farm with research and education activities on sustainable agriculture. An international consortium including Avalon cooperated with local expert teams. Avalon was responsible for the centre in Bulgaria, a marketing study (see next) and jointly with others for a policy study on regional application of sustainable agriculture.

(Danube Environmental Programme, EU DGI-Phare)

1995 “Workshop on action planning for the development of organic agriculture in CEE, held in Croatia”

During this workshop 60 participants (policy makers and NGO's) from 17 countries developed national action plans for the development of organic agriculture in their country. The results of the workshop contributed to policies in different countries.

(EU-DG XI, EU-DG I-Phare, Dutch Ministry of VROM-Environment)

1995 “Training course in organic agriculture for Latvian Agricultural Advisory Service (LAAS)”

LAAS experts were trained to integrate organic agriculture expertise in their advisory work

(Dutch Ministry of VROM-Environment)

1995 “Policy advice to ministries in Latvia”

Latvian policy makers were advised about setting up a certification system for organic agriculture

(Dutch Ministry of VROM-Environment)

1994 “Workshop on how to set up a demonstration centres for sustainable practice in CEE, held in the Netherlands”

During this workshop 50 participants (mainly from NGO's) from 15 countries were trained in developing business plans for demonstration centres for sustainable agriculture.

(EU-DG I-Phare, EU-DG I-Tacis)

1994 “Policy advice to Estonian Ministry of Agriculture on development of organic agriculture”

Based on the results of the seminar 'Why shall Estonian agriculture be ecological?', co-organized by Avalon for the Estonian Ministry of Agriculture, Avalon further advised the Ministry in developing a policy plan for further development of sustainable/organic agriculture.

(Estonia, Ministry of Agriculture)

1993 “Database for organic agriculture in CEE”

A database was developed with information on initiatives and stakeholders in the field of organic agriculture in 10 countries in CEE, including Estonia

(Dutch Ministry of VROM- Environment)

1993 “Situation analysis in CEE”

An analysis was performed on opportunities and threats for the development of organic agriculture in three countries: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Latvia

(Dutch Ministry of VROM- Environment)

1993 “Seminar for policy makers on the contribution of organic agriculture to sustainable rural development in CEE, held in the Czech Republic”

Avalon organised this seminar for 55 participants (including 15 ministers and vice-ministers) from 16 countries, to provide information on and discuss different aspects of sustainable rural development and organic agriculture. This seminar was the first occasion for high level policy makers from the CEE region to discuss these issues, and therefore is considered to have been a landmark event.

(UNDP, Dutch Ministry of VROM-Environment, Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries)