



a toxics-free future

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International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

ISIP Objectives

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Title of activity: The future of IPM in Croatia

NGO: Institut za ruralni razvoj i ekologiju (IRRE)

Country: Croatia

Date: May, 2012

Elements of SAICM Covered:

Promoting full and effective implementation of the Code and its guidelines (23); Addressing problem areas where policy or practice falls short of the Code guidelines (23); Contributing to training in IPM and safe occupational practices in support of improved implementation of the Code (29)

Description of the FAO Code of Conduct:

This activity falls under the FAO code of conduct (COC) chapter 5.1.7 to provide extension and advisory services to farmers' organizations with adequate information about practical IPM strategies and methods, as well as the range of pesticide products available for use. Additionally farmers will have increased knowledge about practices

that can reduce usage of pesticides in line with 1.7.3 article of COC - to promote practices which reduce risks in the handling of pesticides, including minimizing adverse effects on humans and the environment and preventing accidental poisoning resulting from improper handling

Description of existing national pesticide legislation:

Integrated pest management, or Integrated agricultural production (how it is translated in Croatian) was first introduced in Croatia in 2009 through the law on agricultural production (*official gazette 149/2009*). IPM was introduced in the law as a part of sustainable agricultural development. The ordinance about IPM was developed in 2010 and is called "Pravilnik o integriranoj proizvodnji poljoprivrednih proizvoda (NN 032/10)." The ordinance additionally required the Croatian government to produce technological guidance for the producers for every production year so the updated chemical lists are available for producers. The chemicals on the list are separated by plant and it is easy to follow their application and toxicity level. Parallel to this set of agricultural activities, a National Chemical Safety Strategy was adopted by Croatia in 2008 (NN 143/08) which covers also the SAICM objectives.

Description of conditions of work:

The work on the ground can be evaluated as successful as we managed to establish good support with the professors from Križevci College of Agriculture, especially Dr. Zelimir Vukobratovic, who is the Head of the soil analyses laboratory and holds plant nutrition and eco agriculture lectures. The second great contribution came from Dr. Marijana Ivanek-Martin i , who holds lectures on plant protection and integrated plant protection (IPM). Both of these experts gave significant input to this project, not only through the lectures but additionally with individual consultations and advice for our report, which in the end has a total of 23 pages instead of the originally-planned 10 pages. Regarding work conditions of people who use chemicals there are certain requirements for people who sell the products. The retailer need minimum Bachelors' Degree in Agronomy or finished 80 hours of chemicals licensed course. However, there is no real control of the persons who use pesticides and basically there are no limitations for who can buy professional pesticides. These open questions should be regulated in 2012 with a series of by-laws which are in preparation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Description of highly hazardous pesticides formulations sold and/or used in your country:

Croatia already aligned the pesticides regulation with EU legislation so there is no special difference between the practices. The issue in Croatia is that almost everybody can buy the pesticides of any formulation or active substances even though it is required that the retailer should be educated (at least 80 hours of education).

Description of problem areas where practice or policy is not consistent with Code guidelines:

We cannot say that policy is not consistent with code of conduct, but we can say that the producers still did not embrace the IPM as good opportunity for them. Since the IPM regulation (2009 – 2010), not many producers have entered in the system even though they could gain extra subventions. The legislation additionally states that every producer who wants to enter the IPM system in Croatia has to listen at least 5 hours of lectures every year to get his permits, but these education systems which fall under FAO code of conduct practice are still not organized and lecturers are still not licensed and this should be properly followed up in order to reach the EU standard soon.

Description of the use of IPM and ecological agriculture:

We discovered that IPM cannot alone convert the production to ecological agriculture as IPM does not eliminate the use of pesticides in general. However, IPM does significantly reduce the use of chemicals in agriculture and shifts the production paradigm from massive production to production with knowledge. One of the conclusions of the lectures held by experts was also that IPM presents a good transitional period where there should be a good ground for ecological agriculture once the IPM principles are followed for at least 5 years. In Croatia there are 605 agricultural producers with 68.122,02 hectares of land and 188 ecological producers with 120 hectares of land. This equivalent with total of 3% of land diverted from conventional agriculture (total of 2 million hectares are cultivated in Croatia).

Project Outcomes:

Description of the activity conducted to promote the FAO Code of Conduct:

The promotion of FAO code of conduct was organized through 2 activities; lectures about 4 topics and preparation of IPM report. We have organized a seminar with 4 lectures about agricultural topics which concern the increased knowledge about pesticides prevention and integrated pest management. Topics which were covered are: Fertilization and plant stress, Integrated pest management (IPM), Crop rotation, and Pesticide packaging waste management. The lecturers were Dr. Zelimir Vukobratovic (College of Agriculture Križevci), Dr. Marijana Ivanek Martin i (College of Agriculture Križevci) and Mr. Marijan Galovi (IRRE). The seminar was opened by Ms. Tihana Tarandek Galovi (IRRE). The seminar was attended by small local producers, NGO representatives and citizens interested in the subject. In addition to the attendees from Gradec, the lecture was attended by 3 participants from Zagreb and one participant from Bjelovar.

This activity was followed up with production of an 8-page booklet for farmers with the lessons learned from the lectures. This activity falls under the FAO code of conduct chapter 5.1.7- provide extension and advisory services and farmers' organizations with adequate information about practical IPM strategies and methods, as well as the range of pesticide products available for use.

The lessons learned from the seminar are several, but what is most worrying is the fact that agricultural producers' knowledge is really low and that bad practices of conventional agriculture not only require high amounts of pesticides, but also drastically destroy the soil. The most worrying fact is the really high acidity of soil, which causes high mineral fertilizer usage and creates plant stress. The other worrying fact is that producers use chemicals for a "prevention" purpose, which is against the concept of IPM. Huge amounts of chemicals are put on the soil and food "just in case," instead of using the existing and available knowledge.

Follow-up activities were identified and these will be used in preparation of new projects.

The second part of the project was to research whether Croatia follows the FAO code of conduct article 3.7- "Concerted efforts should be made by governments to develop and promote the use of IPM." We searched for evidence of such practices and evaluated the efforts made. After we discovered that there is fresh legislation covering this field, we worked together with experts (mentioned above) and identified what is needed for the

producers. We decided that we will use this opportunity to additionally create a summary of IPM techniques and tools which can be implemented soon on the ground. In the end, instead of the promised 10-page output, we have created a usable tool for producers that has 23 pages of useful information from the IPM technical manual in Croatia.

Impact on target groups:

- a) Agricultural producers in target areas

We interviewed several producers in target areas but also visited a lot of their fields used for food production. We jointly identified the poor state of production knowledge and poor state of the land, which were supported by pictures of soil erosion and bad soil management. We disseminated the printed materials and invited the producers to our lectures. We hope that the level of knowledge was increased by our activities but a lot of additional work has to be carried out before this activity gives certain results. The follow-up activity was already proposed for funding to several funders.

- b) Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Agriculture was not targeted in the level we expected as we really early identified that most of the needed legislation were already adopted and that implementation of those should be monitored. Since the Ministry in 2012 changed its entire staff due to new government, the Ministry was not able to work much on these activities. However, more work is expected later this year.

Impact on target policies:

N/A we did not target any policy but the practice on the ground.

Outreach to stakeholders:

We engaged students, small producers, big producers and academia. As stated above, we were really satisfied with the cooperation with College of Agriculture in Križevci, whose experts gave us really big input in the development of this project. Follow-up activities have already been organized by submitting a project proposal to NORAD Foundation, and will focus on increased soil quality analyses and improvement of soil conditions in the Gradec municipality area.

Deliverables, outputs and/or products:

- a) Booklet (<http://www.irre.hr/docs/publikacija-tlo.pdf>,
<http://www.irre.hr/docs/publikacija-tlo.doc>)
- b) Powerpoint presentations from lectures
 - a. <http://irre.hr/docs/Glog-IPM-projekt.pptx> (Marijan Galovi - introduction to project and basic FAO code of conduct information)
 - b. <http://irre.hr/docs/Tlo%20kao%20supstrat%20za%20uzgoj%20bilja.pptx> (Dr. Želimir Vukobratovi)
 - c. <http://irre.hr/docs/integrirana.ppt> (Dr. Ivanek Martić)
- c) Press releases (<http://irre.hr/docs/POZIV%20NA%20PREDAVANJE%20-%20Pravilnim%20uzgojem%20do%20zdravije%20hrane.doc>)
- d) Media clipping (none published, only radio features)
- e) Website material (<http://www.irre.hr/?cat=9>)
- f) List of signatures of participants (attached to this report)
- g) Photographs (<http://www.irre.hr/?p=61> and article about the lecture)

- h) 10pgs. Report about IPM promotion (<http://www.irre.hr/docs/integrirana-zastita-bilja.pdf>, <http://www.irre.hr/docs/integrirana-zastita-bilja.doc>)
- i) Campaign plan for future projects. (part of Application form to NORAD foundation)
- j) Field trip report and pictures: <http://www.irre.hr/?p=59>

Communication efforts:

We have communicated with the media through the press invitations. The Radio Vrbovec station published the call for seminar several times. As this was local level activity there was no media interest except the local radio. To this report we include several pictures of the seminar and field trips.

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NGO Recommendations for next steps:

Extra work is needed in order to increase the IPM effectiveness in the future. Our NGO, in cooperation with Academia and local producers, should be prepared for usage of EU funds for rural development for further promotion of IPM production. In order to create such preconditions we have already applied for 2 separate projects out of which one focuses on EU funds management and the second one focuses on agricultural production and chemicals reduction in production.