

Date: 2005-12-28

BiHOP Project to end 31 December 2005

On the proposal from ECON, Sida initiated the project BiHOP – Bosnia & Herzegovina Organic Production in year 2001. The Swedish consultancy Grolink has taken care of the project in together with ECON in B&H.

Phase one of the project extended from May 2001 to 31 December 2002. The phase 2 stretched from January 2003 to December 2005. The project is intended to initiate a development of organic agriculture in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The main focus of the project has been:

- To stimulate market oriented organic production
- To initiate the development of the needed institutional framework for future development.
- To increase know-how and general awareness about organic agriculture.

Major accomplishments of the project have been:

Production and Markets:

11 individual farms, 5 bee keepers, 5 grower groups (103 farmers), 12 wild operations (most of them are also processors) organising 6000 collectors and 2 food processors have reached organic certification through the project. Another 50 farms have received advisory support from the project or other forms of support.

Development of exports of organic products, reaching approximately a value of 1 million Euro at the end of the project.

Initiation of local marketing with pilot shops and other marketing channels.

Framework

- the foundation and establishment of Organska Kontrola a domestic certification body with trained staff and an operational certification system, ready to apply for international accreditation
- the adoption of BiH standard for organic agriculture
- the foundation of the association APOP – Asociacija Proizvođača Organskih Proizvoda.

Know-how and awareness

- radically increased awareness of organic agriculture on all levels
- a dozen of trained advisers for organic agriculture
- participating companies and farmers have gained a lot of knowledge.

The project has worked with the active cooperation with many local and international institutions, such as KRAV, Beta, CEFA, ICEA, Sippo, OHR, LIR, Agriculture Institute in Mostar, Banja Luka and Sarajevo.

The project, in its current form, is now ending and Grolink and ECON want to thank all individuals and organisations that have contributed to the success of the project. Sida should be thanked for its commitment to BiH and to Organic Agriculture.

The project ends, but organic agriculture in BiH will continue. The sector is still in need of support to reach its full potential, and we ask all partners to contribute to this also in the future: local and international organisations, governments on all levels, donors and commercial operations.

Both Grolink and ECON are committed to future involvement in the organic sector in BiH, and you are welcome to contact us with ideas for future joint projects. We are also interested to assist individual producers, but ask you to understand that we will have limited possibility to do that, unless we can generate more funds. For those that have questions or ideas for organic agriculture you can also contact:

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Butmirska Cesta 40,
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033 636 768 / 637 301
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But also these organisations have limited funds to support individual producers.

You will find more information about organic in BiH on the web site:
www.organska.ba

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