

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE SISAK-MOSLAVINA COUNTY

MOGUĆNOSTI RAZVOJA EKOLOŠKE POLJOPRIVREDE U SISAČKO-MOSLAVAČKOJ ŽUPANIJ

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ABSTRACT

About 40 small producers with 250 hectares of agricultural land are registered in the Register of eco-producers in the Sisak-Moslavina County. More than 50% of Croatian chestnut forests are located in the County, which is a prerequisite for eco-chestnut honey production. The County area is well known for plum production. A large number of small producers and their low education are barriers to development of organic agriculture in the County. Development of eco-agriculture is important for the rural County area, but it is a long-lasting process.

Key words: Sisak-Moslavina County, soil quality, organic agriculture

SAŽETAK

Oko 40 ekonomskih subjekata s 250 ha poljoprivrednog zemljišta upisano je u registar ekoloških proizvođača u Sisačko-moslavačkoj županiji. Preko 50% šume kestena nalazi se u toj županiji, što je preduvjet za ekološku proizvodnju meda. Županija je također poznata po nasadima šljive. Međutim, veliki broj malih proizvođača i njihovo slabo obrazovanje ograničava razvoj ekološke poljoprivrede u županiji. Razvoj ekološke poljoprivrede je važan za seoska područja županije, međutim to je dugotrajan proces.

Ključne riječi: Sisačko-moslavačka županija, kakvoća tla, ekološka poljoprivreda.

INTRODUCTION

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development official data on 40 small producers with 250 hectares, of which Moslavka D.D. takes 44 ha, from the Sisak-Moslavina County are registered in the Register of eco-producers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The Sisak-Moslavina County was chosen for many reasons: trends of land use in the County during last 20 years, great unemployment rate and soil quality. Current pre-war resource in Sisak-Moslavina County is 40%. Transitional period is essential for soil used for conventional agriculture and in this case that requirement was satisfied, because former 80.000 hectares used for agriculture before Croatian War of Independence were not used for the last 15 years.

RESULTS

Soil quality studies made before and after Croatian War of Independence point to initial overload of the soil. Conclusion based on this argument is that eco-animal husbandry could be developed in this area. More than 50% of Croatian chestnut forests are located in the County area, which is a prerequisite for eco-chestnut honey production. According to oral information given to the first author of this paper, baby food factory in Glina annually needs approximately 350 tons of milk products; 50 tons of biosugar, 100 tons of oatmeal, 30 tons of durum flour, 30 tons of bio barley flakes and cereals; 40 tons of bio mashed apples. These products can be produced and processed in the County. Up to 30% of bio plums are produced in Europe. The Sisak-Moslavina County area was well known for plum production. After finishing Zagreb-Sisak highway construction, the Sisak-Moslavina County will become the suburb of Zagreb. Certainly, a million people market is the market for all eco-agricultural products.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Basic barriers to development of organic agriculture in the County are a large number of small producers and small husbandry production. The problem are also producers of low education and ignorance. Large war damage is the reason why only older population have returned to rural area while young population live in big cities. A good option how to bring back young population to rural area, apart from agrarian/hunting tourism, is also eco-agriculture as maintenance for development of the rural County area. Unfortunately this is a long-lasting process with uncertain results.

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Received – Primljeno:

Apri 21, 2008

