More Effective Agricultural Water Protection
(TEHO project 2008 - 2010)

Expectations and suggestions for Rural Networks

National Rural Networks - 2nd meeting,
13 February 2009, Prague

Project Coordinator Airi Kulmala
Funding and implementation

**Funding:** 2 mEUR during 2008 - 2010
- 50% the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- 50% the Ministry of the Environment

**Practical implementation:** Southwest Finland Regional Environment Centre, Union of Agricultural Producers in Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta regions

**A close co-operation** with farmers, rural and environmental authorities, advisory and research organizations, other environmental projects, etc.
Area of operation

Area of operation: Southwest Finland (Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta)

Farms: farms with different production (plant production/animal husbandry), techniques (direct seeding, plowing, etc.) and production ways (traditional, ecological production, etc.)

• around 120 farms have enrolled in the project (6.2.2009)
• objective 150 farms/3 years
Objective: Widespread use of effective agricultural water protection means

1. More efficient utilization of current measures of the Agri-Environmental Aid Programme (Axis 2)
2. Experimentation with new water protection means and the assessment of practicability
3. Production of bio-energy and cultivation of energy plants as a means of water protection (Axis 1, 2)
4. Development proposals related to environmental protection
Intensification of the current Agri-Environmental Aid Programme

• More accurate implementation of basic, supplementary and special Agri-Environmental Aid measures

e.g.

• Wintertime vegetation cover: reduced tilling, stubble or grassland
• Border strips and buffer zones: establishment and management
• Wetlands (establishment through non-productive investments measure; also Leader approach: other beneficiaries than farmers)
• Nutrient balances as part of fertilization planning
• Soil N measurements before fertilization
• Use of catch crops
• Technique of manure spreading
New water protection means

• Development and experimentation of new farm-specific measures in co-operation with farms
• Ways of implementation and level of impact and cost efficiency
• Possibilities for co-operation and contracting
• Practicability for widespread use
  e.g.
  • Fertilization and other measures on fields with high P value
  • Improvement of soil structure and water economy
  • Precision farming
  • Methods for treating run-off waters
  • Manure usage and treatment, enhancing appreciation for manure, logistic solutions
Bio-energy production and the cultivation of energy plants as means of water protection

Examples:
• Energy plants as mitigators of soil P-content
• Utilization of buffer zones in energy production
• Production of bio-energy from manure or other agricultural by-products
• Supporting local bio-energy projects
Development proposals for environmental protection measures

• Farm's environmental protection manual: the prioritization, cost efficiency and environmental impacts of farm-specific measures
• The needs for changing and making the Agri-Environmental Aid Programme more effective
• Opportunities for co-operation
• The utilization of financing and action possibilities included in the Rural Development Programme, e.g. Leader method, environmental entrepreneurship
• Investigation into other financing opportunities
Activities

- Farmers are provided free, confidential and idea inspiring consultation specific to their farm
- Communication and training sessions
- Study tours, seminars
- Own website www.ymparisto.fi/teho
- Articles in newspapers and other forms of public media
- Intermediate and final reports
- Etc.
Some expectations for Finnish Rural Network

• Trainers are needed in our own courses for farmers-> NRN can help to maintain trainers professional skills (courses, material)
  • e.g. SW Finland Environment Centre and NRN organized around Finland training events concerning overview planning of wetlands (participants: planners in advisory and administrative sectors etc.)
  •Current affairs in biological and landscape diversity (participants: advisory and administrative sectors, Leader groups)
Some expectations for Finnish Rural Network

• Printed material for training
  • e.g. SW Finland Environment Centre and NRN are preparing brochure concerning management of wetlands
    • farmers, planners, Leader groups etc.
  • e.g. T&E Centres and Leader groups are granting support for different projects and they have to regulate projects activities
    -> support (material) is needed before everyone write “handbooks” by themselves

• Study tours
  • e.g. study tour to Austria
    • Participants from Finnish Employment and Economic Development Centres (T&E Centres) & some others
    • Meetings with Austrian farmers and advisory and administration sectors
    • Contacts with Finnish experts
    • European Rural Network Units could help to contact experts in their own country
  • No need to organize everything but to find contacts
  • Study tours also in Finland

13.2.2009

Airi Kulmala
Some expectations for Finnish Rural Network

• Co-operation between projects
  • Many projects concerning agricultural water protection in Finland
  • NRN could list them -> link list to the projects’ webpages, mailaddresses
    1) inform other projects about interesting events and reports etc.
    2) find easily information what other projects are doing
• Evening where you can meet other project leaders, examples about good practices etc.
• Need for environmental enterprise
  • Activation, support for starting new enterprise
  • e.g. crop farms do not have machinery for the maintenance of buffer zones, management of traditional biotopes
• Income for farms
What does Rural Network Unit do?

• Still quite a new organization -> all do not know when and where Unit could help them
• Rural Network works background -> participants do not know when Network is helping with the event in question (better known in case of printed material)
More information about TEHO project:
Project Coordinator
Airi Kulmala
tel. +358 40 507 8143
Planner Anu Lillunen
tel. +358 400 394 229
Planner Kimmo Rasa
tel. +358 400 383 806
Planner Sami Talola
tel. +358 400 341 332

Thank you!

TEHO project
Southwest Finland Regional Environment Centre
Itsenäisydenaukio 2, P.O.Box 47
FIN-20801 Turku, Finland
www.ymparisto.fi/teho

Tel. +358 20 490 102
Fax +358 20 490 5309
firstname.lastname@ymparisto.fi