

Activities of the Secretariat of the SWG

REPORT No. 3 November 2006 – January 2007

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Cc:

- Ministries of Agriculture in SEE Countries
- SWG members
- GTZ Head Quarters Office, Eschborn, Germany
- InWEnt, Germany
- FAO, Rome

Major activities carried out during the period November 2006 – January 2007

Summary

The report covers the most important information and activities carried out by the Secretariat of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in SEE countries (SWG).

In the reporting period the Secretariat on behalf of the members conducted serial of activities supporting and coordinating the activities of SWG.

The Forth Meeting of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE was held in the period November 29th - December 1st, 2006 in Mavrovo, Macedonia.

A Meeting Report was prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to all concerned parties.

Forth Meeting of SWG (November 29th - December 1st, 2006 in Mavrovo, Macedonia)

The Forth Meeting of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE was held in the period November 29th - December 1st, 2006 in Mavrovo, Macedonia.

The purpose of the Fourth meeting was SWG members to discuss and decide about future activities of the SWG, as well as to prepare an Operational Plan of the activities for the period December 2006-December 2007.

During the meeting the following was concluded:

 A formal registration of the SWG was recommended. The Secretariat of the SWG will engage a Lawyer who will explain and recommend the legal procedure for official registration of the SWG.

- Since the SWG members are mostly on political level (changing positions), it was also recommended that representatives on technical level from the respective Ministries to be informed and included in the activities of the SWG, in order to keep the continuation. Each SWG member should nominate one Ministry representative who will be continuously informed about the SWG activities and will participate on the SWG meetings, trainings and other relevant events.
- Several questions about the FAO Project proposal, implementation concept are still opened and should be discussed before the project implementation starts. Each SWG member should prepare list of issues for discussion with FAO.
- The Secretariat prepared templates for an invitation letter and CV for experts as well as organization profile template and delivered them to all SWG members.
 - It is expected that each Ministry will contribute with delivery of list of maximum 10-15 experts and organizations profiles from the region and the EU by February 28 th, 2007.
- Each Ministry SWG member, according to own opinion and decision about documents that could be of interest for other members, should post relevant documents on the website.
 - Draft documents will be also useful to be shared. Useful links should be shared, as well (Phare, IPA, EAR etc.).
- Each SWG member should share any information about different trainings, events with RD relevance with the SWG colleagues.
 The Secretariat should search on internet about different events and trainings, which could be of interest for the members.
- InWEnt presented a plan and programme for 2007. InWEnt will support the SWG in organization of trainings and study tours for the SWG members according to their needs and request.
- A set of electronic version of all promotion materials prepared, as well as printed version of the leaflets and the banner, was delivered to each member Ministry.
- Methodology and project documentation of project with CBC and regional relevance to be shared among the SWG members and similar project to be elaborated and executed.
 - Project proposals should be prepared until the next SWG meeting, when they will be discussed and future steps defined.

- Taking into consideration that Agricultural Policy Forum (APF) organized by InWEnt will be held in November 2007 in Leipzig, Germany, the SWG members agreed that it is not necessary to organize APF in SEE next year.
- An Operational plan of activities of the SWG for the period December 2006 - December 2007 is prepared (including trainings and events).

SWG membership, Statute of SWG

The Secretariat of the SWG approached the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina both in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Serbska as well as the Canton Brcko.

An interest from their side was expressed during the meetings of representative of the Secretariat with representatives from the Ministries. Complete documentation was delivered to the Ministries and feed back is still expected.

As per the initiative and discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia to support SWG in organizing a WS for the SWG members, no reply received so far.

During the Fourth meeting of SWG it was concluded that the Greek Ministry of Agriculture should be informed about SWG initiative and invited to join. Mrs. Djordjevic from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management from Serbia, took responsibility to approach the colleagues from Greece.

Promotional material

Each member Ministry, as well as supporters were provided with a set of electronic version of all promotional materials, as well as with printed version of the leaflets.

As per the request of the members, small banners with SWG logo were printed by the Secretariat and delivered to each SWG member, in order to be exposed at the premises of the respective Ministries.

A new edition of the leaflets of SWG activities and the web – site "seerural.org" were printed for future promotion of SWG.

Presentation of RRD SWG activities on East – West Agricultural Forum preparations

As per the invitation from InWEnt – Capacity Building International and GTZ – HQ Germany, the Secretariat of SWG promoted the initiative and activities on

January 20, 2007 in Berlin, on the Cooperation market place, during the East-West Agricultural Forum and Green Week International Trade Fair.

During the Cooperation Market, contacts with relevant experts and professionals' established and possible future cooperation discussed.

Web – site of the SWG

The Secretariat is constructing and administrating the Web-site of the RRD SWG (www.seerural.org).

One technical assistant is engaged by the Secretariat to administrate the web – site. It is expected that the members of the SWG will deliver all necessary and other interesting material to the Secretariat of the SWG, which will be posted on the web.

Meetings with representatives of the Embassy of Netherlands and the Embassy of Norway in Macedonia

The Secretariat of SWG had meetings with relevant representatives of the Embassy of Netherlands and the Embassy of Norway in Macedonia in order to present the initiative and activities of SWG.

The discussions were focused on the possibilities for support of the SWG in the process of realization of the Operational Plan for 2007, especially the cross border and regional projects.

Annex: Photos





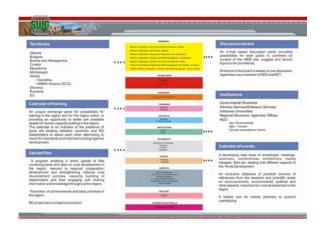
IV Meeting of SWG





Flier on SWG initiative





Flier on seerural.org web site



SWG Posters

