



Training experiments in Slovenian Slovenia

20.10. and 21. 10. 2015, BC Naklo

First test of method for non formal way of AE knowledge transfer was done with pupils of agricultural vocational school BC Naklo (<http://www.bc-naklo.si/?L=1>) as target group. "Project days" is the "festival of knowledge" organized as an auxiliary activity twice a year at BC Naklo. Students apply themselves to different workshops. These are meant as an upgrade of their theoretical school knowledge or information about innovative or interesting new developments in the field of agronomy and rural development. The activity is divided into two days and the result are products or presentations of workshops' activities for fellow students. The structure of the activity was structured and agreed on previous meetings of the local group.

Since the method allows different objectives to be met, it was decided that for this target group the objective will be to acquaint them with the meaning and practices of agroecology and importance of agroecological knowledge. We wanted to sensibilize participants to understand traditional practices from their environment as a part of agroecological system.

The workshop "WHAT IS AGROHOMEOPATHY AND HOW TO USE IT?" was attended by 15 students. The innovative approach to sustainable agriculture was chosen while it represents new way of using old knowledges in agriculture and is good illustration what can be agroecological practice. The sequence of the activity is shown in the document attached http://sagiter.eu/intranet/files/bf_fichierjoint_AE_method_-_Project_day.pdf.

After the introduction about meaning of agroecology by dr. Janko Rode (CAFS), practitioner of Agrohomoepthy ing. Majda Ortan introduced her work and her approaches in solving problems with plants in sustainable way using homeopathic principles as a starting point. After that she explained and demonstrated the way of preparing other preperates for use. The most important part of preparing the solution is diluting it in the water - application of so called step of potentiation and a step of activation by gently shaking. The group was then invited to the greenhouse to prepare the real solution against the red slugs, which are ever growing problem of vegetable growers and gardeners in Slovenia. The use of preparate breaks the reproductory ciclus in the autumn. They prepared the spraying equipment potentiated and activetad the e sollution by themselves. Test plot on the educational/experimental garden of the institution where the crops were already collected and winter salad was sown, was terated for the first of three times needed. A small group of students were choosen to repeat the tratment next day and after 14 days. They also would observe the plot till the nexts season.

The next day they discussed about the experience and their personal view of it. They prepared short presentation and a poster about agrohomoepathy. They presented the topic they were engaged with and experience to the fellow pupils on plenary presentation of all groups of workshops. Presentations, presence list and photos are in Annex 6.

The experience with the approach shown some weekneses and the discussion of optimizing it was the topic of the meeting of local group. We decided to introduce more focused kind of "homework" to activate students also after the first day to be open for agroecological examples in their own nevironment at home, at shool or elsewhere. It was discussed what adaptations are needed for other target groups and how to acheeve specific objectives. The activity could be done also in one

day and this will be the choice of when other target groups will be addressed and other objectives sought. Also approach of advisor as mediator should be more expressed especially in the target groups of farmers with AE knowledges which should be perceived a part of new paradigm in sustainable agriculture. For documents see Annex 6.

13. 7. 2016 Farmers circle of the association Deteljica meeting – The experimentation with conducting the discussion in farmers circles which were described as a method of AE knowledge transfer (see website of the project). We proposed to advisor who is leading the circle to implement the approach of facilitation for the meeting. The topic of the meeting were experiences in organic vegetable growing. The advisor M. Zupančič from Institute for Agriculture and Forestry from Celje encouraged members to compare traditional approaches they know and to discuss how they use them in organic production. They were asking themselves how to incorporate these experience in mainstream agriculture. In the second part of the meeting a survey about perception and understanding of AE was conducted. At the end facilitator reminded them about the introduction meeting last year and explained them that all they were talking about is a part of agroecology. The survey analysis was done in cooperation with project staff member. The conclusion of discussion with the advisor was that the skill of managing farmers circles have to be more known to advisors of public Farmers Advisory Service and it should become a part of their education and training. (see Annex: 5)

20.4. and 21.4. 2016, BC Naklo

The application of optimised method of nonformal transfer of AE knowledge was done in the frame of spring Project at BC Naklo. The structure of the action was comparable to the test action, but with some optimisations included. The topic of this training session was WHAT ARE SHINGLES AND HOW TO USE THEM?. Workshop was attended by 12 students. The action consisted from presentation of the meaning and concept of agroecology by dr. Janko Rode. He presented typical traditional activities and connected them to use of wood, as renewable source, in building. Practitioner Nejc Dijak Shingle maker from Bohinj presented some theoretical and practical aspects and tools for shingle making. The demonstration of the work took place on the courtyard of the CB Naklo. Interested students could try making the shingle. Sensibilization was motivated by “homework“ for students. They should observe how many wooden buildings and infrastructure objects on farms in their neighbourhood including “kozolec“ hay stacks exist. They were encouraged to observe if those buildings are used in their primary purpose or do they have changed use. The next day conversation about their observations was conducted and the possibilities of use of old wooden objects of farm infrastructure not in use anymore, was discussed. Innovative ways of use of kozolec, granary and fruit dryer, were researched. The presentation of the activity for fellow students was prepared and presented. The activity enabled them to re-evaluate the experience and understand the approach of agroecology and use of renewable raw materials. The training was described on website of the project in Our Itineraries: <http://sagiter.eu/intranet/wakka.php?wiki=itineraries&lang=en>, Analysis of the training action was conducted and published on the website of the project:

<http://sagiter.eu/intranet/wakka.php?wiki=DemonstrationGardenPermacultureInAction2&lang=en>

The action was observed and followed by some teachers and they concluded that it is a useful tool for promotion any sustainable practices by “hands on experience“. See Annex 6

23. 8. 2016 Gornja Radgona: "Demonstration garden – Permaculture in action"

Because of very strict timetable and because of changes in organization of advisory service (the change of the head of department) we weren't in position to perform more activities with advisors. But the initial training with demonstration of methods of presentation of AE knowledge took place in G. Radgona.

The training is described on the website of the project as "Demonstration garden – Permaculture in action"

<http://sagiter.eu/intranet/wakka.php?wiki=itineraries&lang=en>

Planning of the action was done (see website above) and analysis was performed after the training session with added recommendations: <http://sagiter.eu/intranet/wakka.php?wiki=ShingleMakingAgroecologicalPracticeForTo&lang=en>

We realised that to promote the approaches of agroecology advisors have to gain their own experience. To understand what is AE and how it fits into development of rural space and social interactions in rural areas, the visit to demonstration gardens of AGRA fair in G. Radgona, Slovenia was organized. On the case of introducing, explaining and transmission of specific knowledge connected to permaculture practitioner demonstrated how to change the status of lecturer and become facilitator and moderator. Advisors summarized experience on personal and professional levels and recognised the elements of innovative approach. Some of them already used several of them, but not in this context. They highly appreciated the experience with permaculture practitioner also on their personal level. It was proven that this method of demonstration and training can be successful and participants opted for more. The coworkers in charge of education now are considering including this kind of training into the plan for the next season. More time should be dedicated for personal research and insight into experience by each participant. The discussion should be moderated in direction of inclusion experienced approaches into every day work with farmers. Documents as invitation and presence list with some photos in Annex 6

31. 5. 2016 Event "ORGANIC FARMING - Slovenian market expects more"

at Biotechnical center GRM Novo mesto was used as the way of transfer the knowledge about the connection of sustainable practice as Organic farming with agroecological concept and its influence on social and economical status of rural areas. Presentation of good practices and round table with participation of presenters, representative of Ministry and academia and discussion of people from audience were the ways of transfer. The consultation seminar with title "ORGANIC FARMING - Slovenian market expects more" was divided into three parts. In the first part after the opening speeches by director of GRM Novo mesto Tone Hrovat, representative of the public farmers advisory service and the dean of College of rural governance Jože Podgoršek, moderator dr. Janko Rode introduced the rationale and approaches of agroecology as a system of values for sustainable farming. He connected it to organic farming which is one of the most recognised sustainable practices in agriculture and explained that agroecology is reaching beyond regulations of organic farming and relies on the experience of small farmers, who gathered experience for decades and adopted to local environment to survive taking into account circumstances in their local area. The social wellbeing of rural societies is based also on economy of products and how local people can get fair income to stay on the countryside.

The second part was dedicated to presentation of good practices of getting organic produce on the market. Different approaches were presented: Participation organic farm with retail chains, The role of the Association of organic farmers in the supply of organic produce for public procurers, The experience of social cooperatives in trading organic products, Organization GIZ Ekokrepko and marketing the organic dairy products and experiences Farmers Cooperative Šalek Valley in connecting organic farmers for organic meat production.

The third part was an round table discussion with title »Commercial production of organic foods - a problem or an opportunity?« and addressed the question of smaller organic self-sustainable farms and the way how can they participate in the trade of organic products which is the segment with high share of growth. Invited interlocutors were representatives of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Health Insurance Institute, CAFS, Faculty of agriculture and Life sciences, certification institute, endusers (representative of kindergarten from Ljubljana) and representative of farmers advisors. At the end of discussion questions and suggestions of participants were discussed and conclusions made. The presentations and audio file was put on the website of College of rural governance <http://vsgrm.unm.si/dogodki/strokovni-dogodki/ekolosko-kmetijstvo>.

Certificate of attendance as a proof for advisors for training was issued and it is considered when individuals join project groups for public procurement projects of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.

The event was promoted through different media as Glas dežel

<http://www.glasdezele.si/articles/2016/ekolo%C5%A1ko-kmetijstvo-%E2%80%93-slovenski-trg-pri-%C4%8Dakuje-ve%C4%8D>

Dolenjski list,

http://www.dolenjskilist.si/2016/05/31/156145/napovedniki/obvestila/Posvet_o_ekoloskem_kmetijstvu_Zavod_Grm/

Beekeepers association of Slovenia http://www.czs.si/objave_podrobno_czs/7474

And on websites of organizers (CAFS and College of rural governance GRM Novo mesto)