First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry

Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (SARD-M)

Vienna, 9-10 July 2007
Strengthening mountain populations’ livelihoods with improved policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development

Making SARD Operational
Our Focus

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Mountain Regions: their potentials and constraints

Policies, Institutions and Processes

... In a Participatory Process
Three Interlinked Priorities

- **Analysis of existing mountain relevant policies for SARD – P1**
  - assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of existing mountain relevant policies for SARD - Policies, Institutions, Processes

- **Analysis of mountain externalities – P2**
  - comparative analysis of positive & negative mountain externalities

- **Strengthening of local institutions – P3**
  - capacity building and governance
Country assessments
Approach

- Examine policies, institutions and processes

- Reflect cross-sectoral nature of SARD

- Reflect opinions of different stakeholders
  - i.e. government and civil society, including private sector
  - at national and decentralized levels

- Build on potentialities and constraints of mountains
Methodological Tools for the Assessments

More **qualitative** in nature

- Literature reviews
- Interviews with key informants
- Discussions with stakeholders at centralized and decentralized levels
Targets

Middle-level practitioners and trainers involved in SARD-M policy making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, from:

- **Governments**, at national and decentralised levels (i.e. ministries of agriculture, environment, rural development, finances, etc.);
- **Civil society** organisations, including local authorities.
Expected Output of Policy Assessments

- Identification of **problematic areas** and **priority issues** facing a region
- Evaluation of the overall **strengths** and **weaknesses** of SARD-M policies
- General **recommendations** on improvements needed in policies, processes and institutions involved in policy making and implementation
- Proposals for concrete **action-oriented follow-up activities**
The SARD-M Project

Strengthening mountain populations’ livelihoods with improved policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development

Project rationales
Physically isolated, socially and politically marginalized, mountain populations are among the most vulnerable in the world. However, specific policies, legislation and institutions can play a vital role in promoting food security, rural livelihoods and sustainable development in these regions.

[more...]

Latest News

Country assessment reports on the strengths and weaknesses policies for SARD in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas and in the Andes
The Bhutan, China and Nepal country assessment reports for the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (HKH) as well as the Colombia, Ecuador and Peru country reports for the Andes are now available. They present the results of the assessments on the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies, including social, economic, institutional and environmental aspects, in relation to SARD principles.

[more...]

Results of policy assessments on the strengths and weaknesses of policies for SARD in the Mediterranean basin
A four-page information sheet and a brief summary presenting the main results of the SARD-M Project activities in the Mediterranean basin mountains are now available.

[more...]

Upcoming and recent meetings
First Meeting of the Carpathian Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry (9-10 July 2007, Vienna, Austria)
UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in collaboration with the SARD-M Project is organising the First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group...
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT