

SAFO ROADSHOW PROGRAMME

WORK PACKAGE 6: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Objective O6.2, Deliverable D6.2, Milestone M 6.4

David Younie, Ragnar Leming, Gheorghe Mihai, Olga Ondrasovicova,
Bohuslav Cermak, Elita Selegovska, Albert Sundrum, Gyorgyi Takacs,
Mette Vaarst



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SAFO Objective 6.2

- To transfer the technologies (knowledge and conclusions) from the project to the end-users and relevant organisations in the candidate member states, and to establish information exchange between the project and the end-users in these countries.



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SAFO Roadshow Concept

- *A series of co-ordinated one-day seminars replicated in a number of countries*

- **Target audience: Organic stakeholders in host countries - livestock producers, certification bodies, policy makers, advisers and researchers**

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SAFO Roadshow Seminars: Objectives

- Disseminate knowledge from SAFO project to end-user level in new & pre-accession EU countries
- Discuss national, country-specific conditions
- Discuss potential, constraints and research requirements of organic livestock production
- Establish major issues for presentation at final SAFO Workshop in Brussels



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Roadshow programme: Locations, dates and local organisers

Country	City	Date	Organiser
Latvia	Jelgava	4 March 2005	Elita Selegovska
Hungary	Budapest	9 June 2005	Gyorgyi Takacs
Slovakia	Kosice	28-29 September 2005	Olga Ondrasovicova
Estonia	Saku	7 October 2005	Ragnar Leming
Romania	Cluj-Napoca	28 October 2005	Gheorghe Mihai



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Roadshow programme template

Time	Programme content
10.00	Welcome and introduction
10.10-11.00	European perspectives from SAFO (current situation of organic livestock production in EU)
11.00-12.30	Current situation and future potential in national organic livestock husbandry e.g. Current situation nationally (statistics, markets) National policy and targets Certification issues and solutions Practical issues from a farmer's perspective
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.30	Outcomes from SAFO network (some of the technical information presented at SAFO Workshops)
14.30-15.30	Group discussions on main problem areas nationally: e.g. Marketing of organic livestock products Livestock health & housing Food safety
15.30-15.45	Tea/Coffee
15.45-16.30	Plenary discussion: Reports from group discussions
16.30	Finish



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Roadshow delegates

	Number	Percent
Farmers	177	46
Government	21	5
Certification bodies	34	9
Food safety, consumer organisations	10	3
Processors, traders	16	4
Advisers, vets, NGOs	49	13
Researchers	46	12
Students	35	9
Total	388	100



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Dissemination of SAFO outcomes

- Delegate packs
 - Translated summaries of four SAFO Workshops
- Roadshow Presentations
 - Perspectives of organic livestock production in EU
 - Survey of SAFO participants on implementation of EU Regulation
 - Conclusions from SAFO, e.g.
 - Challenge of diversity of farming systems
 - Challenge of implementing standards in farm practice
 - Challenge of ensuring product and process quality



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Discussion of national conditions

- Government representatives
 - National organic action plan
 - National statistics
- Certification body representatives
 - Certification problems e.g. non-compliances
- Farmers and advisers
 - Issues at farm level
- Researchers
 - Specific technical issues e.g. food hygiene
- Group discussions



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National conditions: Common features of organic farming sector in all countries

- Relatively young and immature sector
- Recent & relatively rapid increase in number of producers
- Producers feel they are already more or less organic
 - little use of fertiliser and pesticide in last 15 years
 - appreciation of complexity of standards?
- Small home market for organic produce



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Constraints mentioned at all Roadshows

- Lack of market outlets
 - Small home market - most produce exported as primary product
 - Lack of processing facilities, e.g. abattoirs
- Limited advisory provision
 - including knowledgeable veterinarians
- Certification non-compliances in
 - livestock housing
 - non-availability of organic replacements, organic feeds
 - parallel production



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Areas of non-compliance in 04-05

(Source: Cabuk, V, Naturalis SK)

Housing issues

- Tethering in cattle herds (41% of non-compliances)
- Unsuitable housing, insufficient light, no bedding, slatted floors
- No access to pasture or runs, particularly for young or fattening animals
- Failure to comply with requirements on internal or external area

Husbandry issues

- Unauthorised interventions (e.g. de-horning, tail docking)
- Early weaning of the young, particularly calves

Unauthorised inputs

- Use of unauthorised medicines and hormones
- Use of unauthorised feed or feed additives
- Exceeding the proportion of conventional feed
- Unauthorised purchase of animals

Farm management issues

- Unavailable data, e.g. formulae of mixed feed
- Parallel production (e.g. conventional milking cows & organic dry cows)
- Conventional & organic inputs and outputs not separated



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Some constraints specific to individual countries

- Potential biosecurity issues because of system of communal village herding (Romania & others)
- Imbalance between organic crops and livestock in Hungary (only 11% of organic farms are livestock farms)
- Concern over GMO contamination of organic livestock feeds (Czech Republic, but probably most countries at risk)



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Needs recognised by Roadshow delegates

- Increased home market
 - Improved consumer awareness of benefits
 - More organic market outlets/processors
- Improved advisory provision/training
- Improved conversion subsidy
- Food quality standards
- Research needs
 - Appropriate breeds
 - Complementary medicines
 - Nutrition of early lactation dairy cows
 - Pasture quality/product quality relationship



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Roadshow Outcomes

- Benefits to host country
 - Higher profile and better understanding of animal health, food safety issues
 - Delegate packs
 - Presentations (report, website)
 - Discussions
- Benefits to SAFO project
 - Significant amount of information generated
 - Better understanding of national issues
 - Overall Report
 - Website



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SAFO Estonia Roadshow Seminar

Feedback:

- Main organic stakeholders and organisations were participating
- 1st seminar ever focusing animal health and food safety issues in organic farming
- Different positions were presented and shared
- Translated presentation slides and materials
- Limited time for questions and longer discussions
- A report was published in local Journal of Organic Farming (December 2005)



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Slovakia:Czech Republic Roadshow

Positive feedback from farmers indicated that the most important outcomes included:



- the possibility of meeting ecological farmers, stakeholders and other interested bodies
- direct contact and communication of participants and SAFO project coordinators

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Important outcomes (continued)

- extending knowledge on various aspects of ecological farming and standard development
- discussing issues related to health of animals and safety of products
- very interesting and beneficial were the conclusions from SAFO workshops received by roadshow participants



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SAFO ROADSHOW IN ROMANIA ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN EUROPEAN UNION & ROMANIA: PRESENT, FUTURE PERSPECTIVES IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS



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THE ROADSHOW PRESENTS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR:

- DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING EVOLUTION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN EU COUNTRIES AND ROMANIA
- EMPHASIZING AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL OF ROMANIA AND POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC FARMING
- IDENTIFICATION OF DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY FARMERS IN PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND SELLING BIO PRODUCTS
- NEW INFORMATION CONCERNING INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION
- EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS AND EXPERIENCE



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ROADSHOW FEED-BACK

- THE RESULTS OF THE ROADSHOW HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT IN MASS MEDIA (2 INTERVIEWS AT THE RADIO, AND 2 TV PARTICIPATIONS)
- A REVIEW PAPER IS UNDER PREPARATION
- COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION OF BIOAGRICULTORS (BIOTERRA), UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ AND ECOLOGICAL FARMS FROM TRANSYLVANIA WAS IMPROVED



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