Model farm for Ecological Agriculture and Rose Cultivation

Description: The project centres round the development of a model farm for ecological agriculture and rose cultivation.

Beneficiaries: Farmers

Project Implementation: Romanian FCE Foundation, German Media foundation

Timespan: 24 months

Estimated costs: 201 535,00 €

Partner: Romanian Foundation Medias, Board of the German Media Foundation in Stuttgart

Origin: The proposal builds on a very successful project of the Romanian FCE foundation in Medias
**Project Information Sheet**

1. **Title of the Project**
   "Model farm for Ecological Agriculture and Rose Cultivation"

1.1. **Applicant:**
FCE - Foundation for Culture and Ecology  
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2. **Location of the Proposed Project and Area of Coverage**
Project will be located in Sighisoara, covering an area of 50 square km.

3. **Justification**
The project centres round the development of a model farm for ecological agriculture and rose cultivation. The idea is to establish a model farm to support the development of ecological agriculture in Transylvania. The project has been conceived as a practical contribution to improve the current life conditions of farmers in Transylvania and contribute to the development of ecological agriculture in Romania.

The proposal builds on a very successful project of the Romanian FCE foundation in Medias (http://www.fcenet.com) which involves consultancy and support for the ecological cultivation of roses as well as the production of rose oil in the region Medias-Sighisoara. This project for the production of rose oil from the ecologically cultivated “Rosa damascena“ has been developed together with the remedy- and cosmetic producer WALA Heilmittel GmbH. This cultivation project in Transylvania currently extends over 60 hectares. To this, 20 hectares of new rose cultivation are to be added annually, until the objective of 200 hectares is reached.

The cultivation is carried out on biodynamic practices and will be eco-certified according to EU-directives. The Foundation sees its engagement in this project as a contribution to sustainable social development with objective of creating and safeguarding sustainable jobs in the rural environment. The aim here is the preservation of both the social and ecological fundamentals as well as the preservation of cultural heritage and cultural landscape. The project is based on the principle of “aid for self-help“.

During the course of the above mentioned rose-cultivation project it became clear that it was necessary to train and qualify the participating farmers properly in the field of ecologically sensitive and biodynamic cultivation and, in turn, to support the building of the farmers network.

Central amongst the various education and training approaches of the Foundation is the setting-up a model farm for biodynamic agriculture and ecological cultivation. The proposed model farm will serve as a practical example of ecological agriculture that includes the cultivation of a specialized crop as in the abovementioned rose project. Besides the cultivation of regional products like wheat, corn and lucerne as well as fostering rose plantations, this new project will open up a range of additional cultivation opportunities, which can then be evaluated and implanted as part of an integral eco-farming concept.

Once fully developed the project will offer a secure and stable income for up to 200 families in the region, who will have been given an optimal starting point in ecological agriculture. The rose plantation is evidence of the valuable contribution to the launching of ecological agriculture for the participating farmers and how it can considerably improve the income of the
families involved. By entering into long-term cultivation contracts a truly real sustainable development can be initiated.

A very important aspect of the project is the focus on the preservation of cultural heritage and cultural landscape. The preservation of a traditional farmstead through experienced restoration work makes possible the conservation of an ancient building and preserves such historical monuments for posterity. The renovation of the old farms by traditional methods has exemplary character, renovation projects often destroy the character and substance of the old buildings. The specific approach of the Foundation is the renovation of such medieval farms goes hand in hand with a meaningful use of the buildings. FCE is therefore connecting the renovation of such buildings with the creation of viable economical prospects for people in the region enable them to remain in their native country.

The actors involved in the implementation of the project are the Romanian FCE-Foundation, the German Media foundation in Stuttgart, a growing farmers network in the Sighisoara area. A qualified consultant and development agency will be included in the project. The direct beneficiaries of the project will be the farmers in the region, who will use the services of the model farm that will adequately prepare them for qualification in new forms of agriculture.

4. Objectives of the Project

   Long-term objective:
   1. Inauguration of a EU-certified ecological model farm and a contribution to the development of a sustainable and lasting agriculture in the region.
   2. Contribution to active environmental protection and preservation of valuable cultural heritage the EU-enlargement area.
   3. Exemplary development of new training programmes for farmers giving them the opportunity apply the knowledge and practical experiences gained in other regions and influence the country-wide development of ecological agriculture.

   Immediate objectives:
   Qualification of farmers in order to achieve a greater economical independency as well as the creation of sustainable jobs.

5. Activities of the Project

The project development envisaged as extending over 2 year period intends to procure and restore an appropriate farm which will become property of the charitable Romanian FCE Foundation. The FCE Foundation will takeon the practical organization and implementation on farm project. The development of the concept as well as the corresponding project control and management will be done by a qualified consulting agency which has more than 12 years of experience with development projects in Romania.

   1. Purchase of an appropriate farm
   2. Restoration according to traditional procedures.
   3. Purchase of machinery, seeds and livestock
   4. Hiring of qualified staff.
   5. Setting-up of the necessary infrastructure which is needed for the plan.
   6. Start with actual model farm work activities.
   7. Qualification of the model farm staff.
6. Inputs
Both the staff of the Romanian Foundation Medias as well as the Board of the German Foundation will be involved in the project. Additional employees will have to be hired in the course of the project.
Material inputs include to agricultural equipment as well as to land.
For financial inputs please refer to the financial section of the appendix.

7. Requirements from outside the project
Regarding other inputs required from local or national inputs the project will have to cooperate with the rose oil distillery in Danes and several Universities in the region with agricultural department. FCE is willing to consider bringing its projects together with others being developed in order to maximize return for the region.

8. Calendar of Activities
December 2004: Decision on financing.
January 2005: Official start of the project.
January 2005: Starting-conference with all participants in Laslea.
February 2005: Selection and purchase of a suitable farm, redevelopment- and restoration work will be initiated.
March 2005: Selection and employment of suitable staff.
April 2005: Procuring of agricultural machinery. First outdoor works, laying out of specialized crops.
April 2005: 1. training and development programs for the farmers.
April 2005: Reconstruction, and renovation of the necessary stables on EU-specification.
May 2005: Purchase of animals as well as further agricultural machinery.
July 2005: Moving into the farm and stable.
August 2005: Taking up of the regular farm works.
Nov. 2005: 2. training and development programs for staff.
March 2006: Agricultural works outdoors.
October 2006: Purchase of further land for cultivation.
October 2006: 3. Training and development for staff.
Jan. 2007: Transition to regular work.
9. Budget

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>EUR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transsylvanian model farm for ecological agriculture</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Model farm purchase of house and land</td>
<td>30 000,00 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restauration of model farm</td>
<td>20 000,00 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building/restauration of model farm barn</td>
<td>18 000,00 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural costs</td>
<td>37 435,00 €</td>
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<td>Farm manpower and on site consulting</td>
<td>37 200,00 €</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>21 300,00 €</td>
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<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td>9 600,00 €</td>
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<td>Project development, management and controlling</td>
<td>24 000,00 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total model farm 2 years budget</td>
<td>201 535,00 €</td>
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18.10.2004
Michael W. Bader