



# Sustainable and climate-resilient sunflower value chain and corresponding innovative climate-resilient production systems

**The Vojvodina region is known for its sunflower production. Considering the global significance and the demand for organic sunflower kernels, it is essential to test sustainable and climate-resilient production methods in times of accelerated change that may significantly decline yield stability and open up for export of additional organic products.**

## Objectives

- Establishing a sustainable and climate resilient value chain for Bio Suisse certified dehulled kernels of sunflower including access to post harvest and organic certified processing infrastructure.
- Developing a tight network of large-scale organic companies and small-scale organic farmers with a linkage to international organic markets and fostering capacity-building in the organic sector.
- Improved advisory services for organic production through Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops Novi Sad (IFVCNS)
- Development of sustainable and highly diversified dynamic agroforestry (DAF) demo plots in Serbia, as potentially new cultivation system for the future
- Identification of high-value use of sunflower shell as by-product – reinforcing circular economy

Country/Region

**Serbia/Vojvodina**

Project partners

Private business:

Halba, Tira, Ecotop, LoginEko

NGO:

Vojvodina organic cluster

CERUDA

Research or public institution:

Institute of Field and Vegetable crops, National Institute of the Republic of Serbia

Duration

01.04.2022 – 31.12.2023

Total budget

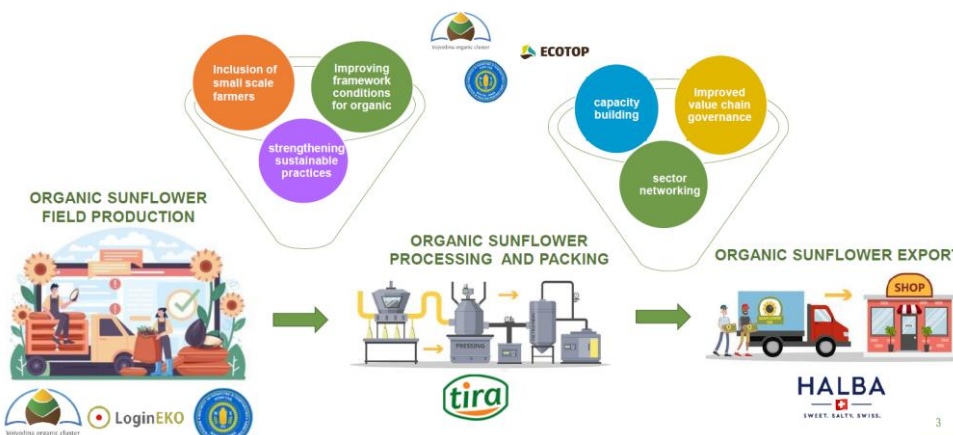
220'270 CHF

SECO contribution

99'870 CHF

Consortium contribution

120'400 CHF



## Main activities

- Linking small-scale farmers to large-scale producer Halba to build up a strong business relationship including assessing additional products of interest
- Coaching and training staff of the Vojvodina Organic Cluster (VOC) to enable them to build up capacities of their members and Login Eko about post harvest management, Bio Suisse certification, organic sunflower production and value chain governance
- Creation and testing of an innovative climate resilient production system based on principles of DAF at large-scale and small-scale farms by IFVCNS in collaboration with Ecotop
- Capacity-building of the farmers in the field of biodiversity and soil fertility in DAF production systems by IFVCNS and Ecotop
- Evaluation of circular economy option via market opportunities for sunflower shells to improve price competitiveness of organic certified sunflower kernels through a study by CERUDA





### A public good for the organic sector of the country

- Research involvement and possible new and innovative solutions for resilient, highly diversified production systems and nature inclusive agriculture led by IFVCNS.
- Potential to create new opportunities for other conventional crop producers to start conversion, which can also contribute to the conservation of nature deteriorated under conventional practices.
- The project shall provide a new model for how larger companies and small-scale farmers can create synergies and collaborate for relevant organic export value chains.



Picture 1: Sunflower production visit



Picture 1: Project dissemination



Picture 3: Project presentation



Picture 5: DAF principles on spot lecture



Picture 5: DAF Demo plot establishment



Picture 6: DAF Demo plot mulch distribution

### Contact information

**Vojvodina organic cluster**  
[vok.org.rs](http://vok.org.rs)

**Halba**  
[www.halba.ch](http://www.halba.ch)

**Organic Trade for Development Program**  
[www.organictrade4development.org](http://www.organictrade4development.org)



**Project page**

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/sustainable-sunflower-value-chain-ot4d-ppp-project>



## Supporting the development of climate resilient organic raspberry production in the Brus area of Serbia

**In the region of Brus, climate change and changing demographics pose increasing challenges and pressure on organic berry producers. Urbanization is challenging the farming sector of the region and makes it unattractive for youth. The project supports farmers investing in climate-resilient farming systems that increase their yields and reduce risks of crop failures, ensure sufficient high-quality raw material and make the farming sector again attractive for youth.**

### Objectives

- 90 small-scale organic farmers adapt climate-resilient farming system including drip irrigation and protection net
- Increase the yield and the product quality in order to increase household incomes
- Increase the competitiveness of the Serbian raspberry in the increasingly demanding international markets
- Reduce the risk of crop failures through know-how transfer
- Guarantee stable supply base of high-quality fruit for organic processor Midi to enable further product innovations and secure jobs



Country/Region

**Serbia/Brus**

Project partners

Private business:

Tradin Organic Agriculture  
B.V.

Midi Organic D.O.O.

Research or public  
institution:

Local extension service

Duration

01.02.2022 – 31.12.2023

Total budget

200'000 CHF

SECO contribution

100'000 CHF

Consortium contribution

100'000 CHF

### Main activities

- Design most efficient irrigation system and shade netting based on local farm condition
- Facilitate supply chain for irrigation system and shadow nets
- Supervision of installation of irrigation system and protective nets and provide advice to farmers on demand
- Evaluate the impact of the investment with special attention to yield, product quality, environmental effects and engagement of youth
- Design trainings on irrigation and shade nets for winter school in collaboration with extension service
- Organize field visits for demo plots for organic farmers and other interested farmer in the region





### A public good for the organic sector of the country

- With piloting the irrigation and shading system, relevant experiences and recommendations can be shared with farmers in the region, which contributes to a more sustainable resilient production in the light of climate change.
- Knowledge will be disseminated through the extension team and integrated in the winter school curriculum.
- With the increased quality of the berries through the project activities, it can position the organic raspberries from Serbia as premium product in the EU market also for other producers.



Picture 1: Installation of the irrigation system



Picture 2: Drip irrigation



Picture 3: Farmers training

### Contact information

**Midi Organic D.O.O.**  
[www.midiorganic.com](http://www.midiorganic.com)

**Tradin Organic Agriculture B.V.**  
[www.tradinorganic.com](http://www.tradinorganic.com)

**Organic Trade for Development Program**  
[www.organictrade4development.org](http://www.organictrade4development.org)



## Revitalization of the cold store located in Boturic

**In the mountain areas in the district of Rasinathe, living farming conditions with big slopes and small plots are challenging, the income from family farms are unstable and dependant on the weather conditions. Organic production of berries and fruits is a good niche with a higher added value and competitive advantage on the export market. Adequate local storage infrastructure and short transportation ways are key to guarantee high quality products.**

### Objectives

- Reducing the transport distance significantly through the renovation of the cold store to improve fruit quality
- Increasing the product portfolio including juniper, utica ortica, wild apple and rosehip
- Creating additional workplace at the new cold store
- Strengthening practical knowledge of farmer organic production through trainings and extension services in the region



Country/Region

**Serbia/Rasina**

Project partners

Private business:

Bio Partner Schweiz AG

Menex D.O.O.

Research or public institution:

Secondary agrischool from Aleksandrovac

Agricultural Faculty of Krusevac

Duration

01.11.2022 – 31.12.2023

Total budget

236'660 CHF

SECO contribution

99'160 CHF

Consortium contribution

137'500 CHF

### Main activities

- Renovation and upgrading of the cold store in Boturic
- Integrating organic know-how on organic fruit production in summer and winter school reaching 1000 students
- Supporting the organic certification of 170 new farmers
- Introducing measures to assure better raw material quality of berries
- Attract new young producers for berry production

**MENEX**

**BIODINA**



### A public good for the organic sector of the country

- Developing lecturers at the school and faculty assures the knowledge transfer beyond the contracted organic farmers.
- Promoting organic farming in the region is contributing to the sustainability and conservation of nature in the National Park Kopaonik.
- Certifying wild collection is the best way to preserve the natural surrounding and the ecosystem as well as reducing biodiversity loss.
- Providing better conditions with higher product prices and security by buying up the complete production of organic fruits as well as technical coaching, stimulates farmers to stay in the region and to extend their production.



Picture 1: Berry field



Picture 3: Processing



Picture 3: Harvested Strawberries

### Contact information

**Menex D.O.O.**

[www.menex.rs](http://www.menex.rs)

**Biodina SA**

[Biodina SA | Biodina](http://Biodina SA | Biodina)

**Organic Trade for Development Program**

[www.organictrade4development.org](http://www.organictrade4development.org)



## Stronger Supply Chains for Organic Delicacies from Serbia in the DACH Region

**Low living standards, high unemployment and migration to urban areas are among the main problems in rural areas of Serbia, especially in the south of the country. Agriculture is often one of the few existing employment opportunities. Organic production can provide a better income and help protect environment. Strengthening existing and building new supply chains between farmers and BioBalkan will increase trade volumes and increase the know-how on organic farming and processing.**

### Objectives

- Strengthening existing supply chains for processed vegetable and fruit-based products
- Building a new basis for supply chains with Agro Iris in order to contribute to the conversion of farms from currently conventional to organic production
- Improved advisory services for organic production through Regional Development Agency (RDA)
- Promoting organic agriculture in Southern Serbia through a series of trainings and awareness-raising measures
- Increasing mostly direct-to-consumer sales in the DACH region



### Main activities

- Establishing and supporting a cooperative of organic farmers for expanding the supply base of organic raw production
- Investments into processing equipment and renovation of processing facilities for organic production
- Realizing a feasibility study to assess the potential for a new supply chain for dry plums and pears with Agro Iris
- Initiate conversions to organic production and certification of farms
- Need assessment on topics of interest for organic farmers and producers in the region to develop adequate trainings
- Organize marketing activities focused on the Swiss market, like journalists journey, Swiss-specific content and online campaigns

### Country/Region

**Serbia/Lebane,  
Bosilegrad**

### Project partners

#### Private business:

BioBalkan Express  
Handels GmbH  
Radanska Ruza D.O.O.

#### NGO:

Optimist  
Agro Iris

#### Research or public institution:

Regional Development  
Agency (RDA)

#### Duration

01.09.2022 – 31.12.2023

#### Total budget

199'917 CHF

#### SECO contribution

99'958 CHF

#### Consortium contribution

99'959 CHF





### A public good for the organic sector of the country

- BioBalkan works with producers whose mission is to support marginalized groups by integrating them into income-generating activities. This project steps in where the government structures are missing or are unable to provide these services.
- The project supports the building of an organic cooperative, which promotes organic farming.
- A series of trainings on organic farming open to every farmer in the region will be organized. These offers will not only enhance the know-how of farmers and producers in Southern Serbia, but also strengthen the RDA to monitor needs and offer services to the organic sector in the south of Serbia in the future.



Picture 1: Ajvar Product



Picture 4: Harvested papricas



Picture 3: Paprica Farm

### Contact information

#### Radanska Ruza

[www.radanskaruza.rs](http://www.radanskaruza.rs)

#### BioBalkan GmbH

[www.biobalkan.info](http://www.biobalkan.info)

#### Organic Trade for Development Program

[www.organictrade4development.org](http://www.organictrade4development.org)





## Increase Albania's export of organic olive oil through increased storing capacities and stronger supply chains

**The Albanian government's priorities on agriculture and rural development 2021-2025 is to triple agricultural exports. The demand of extra virgin organic olive oil is at rise and offers an opportunity to farmers to increase their income in the region of Dumrea, Vlora and Tirana. First investment to increase processing capacity has already been made with the support of the government. Now storage capacity and additional organic olive producers are the new challenge to meet the demand.**

### Objectives

- Increase the storing capacities to be able to increase organic oil production
- Extend the company's activities in Dumrea, Vlora and Tirana to convince new farmers to join for organic certification and to transfer know-how on organic agriculture
- Strengthen the collaboration with Agriculture Technology Transfer Center and the Extension Service of MARD to promote organic agriculture to other geographic areas
- Extend the product promotion to new export markets with a professional product appearance including labelling



### Main activities

- Construction of a second floor to increase the storage capacity and better assure the product separation and tracability
- Build up 2 On-Farm demonstration plots in collaboration with MARD and ATTC to use for capacity-building of the olive producers in the region and other geographic areas
- Develop specific training modules on organic olive production, especially targeting women and youth
- Strengthen the marketing activities including a redesign of the product label to better position the organic olive oil in the local and international market

Country/Region

**Albania/Dumrea, Vlora, Tirana**

Project partners

Private business:

Shepresa Shkalla

Claro Fair Trade AG

Research or public institution:

AgricultureTechnology Transfer Center (ATTC)

Extension service of MARD

Duration

01.09.2022 – 31.12.2023

Total budget

95'118 CHF

SECO contribution

47'000 CHF

Consortium contribution

48'118 CHF



**SHKALLA SH**





### A public good for the organic sector of the country

- Increasing the organic olive production contributes to reduce the chemical runoff and the pollution of the terrain and watershed.
- New job creation in these region will contribute to increase the income of the families and help to mitigate the migration of the Albanian youth from the rural areas.
- The project has a social impact through capacity-building and community-strengthening in collaboration with local institutions.
- The on-farm demonstration in Vlara will be used by the extension service MARD to spread the model of organic farming in other geographic areas of olive cultivation.



Picture 1: Field visit



Picture 5: Olive oil production



Picture 3: Olive harvest

### Contact information

**Shpresa Shkalla**  
[www.shpresashkalla.com](http://www.shpresashkalla.com)

**Claro Fair Trade Ag**  
[www.claro.ch](http://www.claro.ch)

**Organic For Trade Development Program**  
[www.organictrade4development.org](http://www.organictrade4development.org)



## Organic Herbs Sector Development in Rogozhine Area

The rural region of Rogozhine has a lot of unemployed young people, who would be interested to work with herbs. Due to the lack adequate drying, storage and transport capacity, they are hindered to expand their surface or to start the organic herb production.

### Objectives

- Create a stable and and high quality organic herb cultivation and production in Rogozhine region
- Professionalization of processing of the herbs through better transport, drying and cutting infrastructure
- Reducing contamination risks after harvest and increase tracability of the products



### Main activities

- Capacity-building and coaching of the farmers in regard to organic herb production
- Support provision of seeds and other inputs for organic herb production
- Training of wild collectors to assure the best quality of herbs
- Provide free access to drying machine to dry freshly collected plant material
- Introducing pneumatic tunnel for air weight separation to improve the quality of the herbs by removing impurities

Country/Region

**Albania/Rogozhine**

Project partners

Private business:

BIDAJ Sh.P.K.

ETS TOURET-L'Herbier du  
Diois SAS

Duration

01.09.2022 – 31.12.2023

Total budget

194'920 CHF

SECO contribution

97'460 CHF

Consortium contribution

97'460 CHF

**l'herbier**





### A public good for the organic sector of the country

- The project will attract more than 100 persons to be implicated in the organic sector, additional jobs will be created in cleaning and processing work.
- Through the coaching, improved quality of the products will lead to better prices for the producers and collectors.
- The project will help to promote the Albanian Organic Sector internationally, attracting new buyers and investors in the sector.



Picture 1: herb harvest



Picture 6: herb harvest on the field



Picture 3: wild collection

### Contact information

**Bidaj Ltd.**

[www.bidaj.al](http://www.bidaj.al)

**L'Herbier du Diois**

[www.herbier-du-diois.com](http://www.herbier-du-diois.com)

**Project Consortium: IFOAM – Organics International/Helvetas/Fibl**

[www.organictrade4development.org](http://www.organictrade4development.org)



## Improving competitiveness and sustainability of medicinal and aromatic plants through advance technologies and organic production

**Production of medicinal and aromatic plants is an important sector that contributes to the economic and social development of Albania. This sector generates up to 8 times higher income per hectare than traditional crops, especially the organic production. The project will contribute to job retention and creation along the supply chain of medicinal and aromatic plants and encourage farmers to adopt organic production practices.**

### Objectives

- Capacitate farmers with adequate knowledge and skills trainings on best practices of production, drying, processing with a special focus on organic medicinal plants.
- Improve quality standards for medicinal and aromatic plants
- Reduce production cost and workload through the introduction of advance technologies
- Improve the tracability system and reduce its maintance cost through digitalization of the process



### Main activities

- Develop training programmes for famers with special focus on organic production
- Support the equipment of farmers with specific agriculture machineries for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants
- Facilitate provision of quality of organic agricultural inputs, such as seeds and seedlings
- Introduce a digital platform at farm level to caption and process data about soil, weather condition and pest management
- Introduce an electronic traceability system

Country/Region

**Albania/Tepelene**

Project partners

Private business:

Biobes shpk

Sonnentor

Research or public institution:

Albanian Institute for Biological Production

Agricultural University of Tirana

Duration

01.10.2022 – 31.12.2023

Total budget

199'940 CHF

SECO contribution

99'950 CHF

Consortium contribution

99'990 CHF





### A public good for the organic sector of the country

- The set of the digitalized technology for monitoring soil, weather and pests/diseases will be an innovative technology applied in Albania and attract more farmers in the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants.
- The involvement of the Institute of Organic Production will enable a better partnership between the institute, the cluster and the farmer and will facilitate future knowledge transfer to other farmers and processors.
- The collaboration with the Agriculture University of Tirane will give the opportunity to students to do on-the-job training and internships at Biobes and production farms.
- Awareness-creation on organic production of farmers and consumers through the social and media campaign.
- The care to manage spontaneous flora in a sustainable way to allow natural regeneration preserves biodiversity.



Picture 1: Harvest of herbs



Picture 7: Processing the herbs



Picture 3: Herb field

### Contact information

#### Biobes shpk

[www.biobes.al](http://www.biobes.al)

#### Sonnentor

[www.sonnentor.com](http://www.sonnentor.com)

#### Organic Trade for Development Program

[www.organictrade4development.org](http://www.organictrade4development.org)



## Implementation of organic cultivation of medicinal & aromatic plants in the region of Prrrenjas

The company Agro-MAP already produces high quality organic medicinal and aromatic plants in Albania as raw material for the European market. Now they seek to expand from a producer to a manufacturer of their own organic tea and herbal products for the consumer market in Albania and the EU. The project wants to involve local farmers in the production process and invest in real business relationships based on trust, contract and accountability.

### Objectives

- Increase the quality of the production of organic medicinal and aromatic plants
- Strengthen the collaboration with local farmers through formal and contractual cooperation to build up real business relationships based on trust, increasing accountability and mutual respect
- Create a local brand with local production to keep the value creation in the region
- Create competitive jobs in a region of rural depopulation to fight poverty



### Main activities

- Training and supervision of local farmers to strengthen their ability to cultivate organic plants on their individual farms
- Support the mechanical cultivation for a professional preparation of the fields
- Installation of a production line for better quality-processing at the production site of Agro-MAP
- Production of raw material, herbal tea and herbal products

Country/Region

**Albania/Prrrenjas**

Project partners

Private business:

Agro-MAP consulting sh.p.k.

Plantawalle GmbH

Duration

01.11.2022 – 31.12.2023

Total budget

199'150 CHF

SECO contribution

93'000 CHF

Consortium contribution

106'150 CHF



plantawalle  
your expert for herbs & spices



Agro-MAP



### A public good for the organic sector of the country

- Job creation in a region with very low job availability, especially for youth and women to halt the massive depopulation in the region
- Contribute to raise the income of the local farmers
- The involvement of farmers is not restricted to the region, but can be further extended
- Create knowledge and awareness in the local municipality regarding the need of functioning farmer-buyer relations, as well as at national level in state agencies, especially regarding legal contracts provision of funds and access to credit
- Integration of political actors has a great potential to raise awareness of how to facilitate international business collaboration



Picture 1: Processing



Picture 8: Processing



Picture 3: Different varieties in the field

### Contact information

**Agro-MAP consulting sh.p.k.**

[www.agro-map.al](http://www.agro-map.al)

**Plantawalle GmbH**

<http://plantawalle.org/>

**Organic Trade For Development Program**

[www.organictrade4development.org](http://www.organictrade4development.org)





## Organic berries development in Amalgamated territorial communities

The project will be implemented in the communities of Rivnenska within the global initiative of the European Green Deal focusing on Green agriculture and biodiversity. There are challenges for this system change in agriculture. Promotion of environmental knowledge in educational institution and agro advisor and processing enterprises for organic production. The strategy is to increase the attractiveness of the organic berry production as part of the agrarian strategy of the region and the creation of an organic cluster

### Objectives

- Creating a lasting link in organic entrepreneurship between community and business partners in the berry sector
- Development of eco education in community educational institutions to increase the knowledge on green agriculture
- Supporting the freezing process of organic berries in the community to strengthen the value chains
- Creating a social elevator School / Lyceum / University for young people of the communities, which will help to create an agro advisory service and retain small farmers in the organic berry production



Country/Region

**Ukraine/Rivne**

Project partners

Private business:

Organic Life GmbH

RSN Trade LLC

NGO:

Ecoterra

Ouw

Research or public institution:

Pryviline lyceum

National University of

Water and

Environmental

Engineering

Myrohoshcha

Agricultural College

Duration

01.10.2022 – 31.12.2023

Total budget

384'365 CHF

SECO contribution

100'000 CHF

Consortium contribution

284'365 CHF

### Main activities

- Develop and conduct a theoretical and practical course on organic berry management for small farmers
- Support the organic certification process of small berry producers
- Develop training programs on organic farming for interschool resource centers
- Support the construction of the infrastructure of the berry freezing enterprise



National University of Water  
and Environmental  
Engineering

**OSTROH**



### A public good for the organic sector of the country

- Creating training materials and publications on organic berry growing and video lessons, which will be shared also after project end at lyceum, schools and university
- Learning opportunities for Internally Displaced People (IDP)s, who will share the knowledge in the home communities
- Creating not only economic benefits, but strengthening social ties within the community
- Providing non-discrimination access to membership in the farm supply chain of berries – joint planning, agricultural consulting, production resources and logistics



Picture 1: Strawberry field



Picture 9: School classes and demonstration plot



Picture 3: Raspberry field

### Contact information

#### RSN Trade LLC

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#### Organic Life GmbH

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#### Organic Trade For Development Program

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