

Greener Agriculture for a Sustainable Sea / GRASS 2018 Conference

Agriculture in the Baltic Sea Region and Sustainable Development Goals

13-14 December 2018, [IBB Johannes Rau Center](#), Minsk, Belarus

The Conference will address wide range of national and international stakeholders (farmers, authorities, academia, NGOs, general public and media) and will focus on the following two thematic blocks:

- **13 December:** Bioeconomy / Circular Economy; nutrient recycling; nutrient accounting; nutrient sensitive areas; Sustainable Development Goals, River Basin Management
- **14 December:** Organic agriculture, including legal aspects, market support, awareness and education

13 December, Thursday	
09:00-10:00	Registration and welcome coffee <i>(participants are invited to visit exhibition of organic production and awareness raising literature/books)</i>
10:00-10:30	Opening and welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Agriculture of Belarus – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus – Tarja Haaranen, Vice-Chair, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) – Bernd Hemingway, Deputy Secretary General, Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) – Mikhail Durkin, Executive Secretary, Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)
10:30-10:45	WWF Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Introduction to the contest, history, winners and prospects <i>Anu Suono, WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme, Sweden</i> – Award Ceremony - Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award in Belarus and Ukraine
10:45-11:20	Panel I – Farmers’ Vision of Sustainable Agriculture for the Baltic Sea Region <i>Moderators: Eugeniy Lobanov / Mikhail Durkin</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National winners of 2018 Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kanstantsin Chychyra, Belarus – Bogdan Kostiv, Ukraine – Igor & Iryna Rudenko, Russia – Jānis Kažotnieks from the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
11:20-12:30	Plenary I. Global and regional policy
11:20-11:40	Nutrient recycling in the BSR – a way towards circular economy and prevention of eutrophication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Tarja Haaranen, HELCOM Vice-Chair / Chair of HELCOM Group on sustainable agricultural practices</i>
11:40-12:00	Bioeconomy / Circular Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Dr. Marina Henrysson, KTH, Stockholm University</i>
12:00-12:30	Coffee-break

Arranged with the contribution by:

12:30-13:00	<p>Panel II – Multi-stakeholder dialogue on how to move towards sustainable agriculture in BSR <i>Moderators: Eugeniy Lobanov / Mikhail Durkin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Farmer community: <i>Oksana Kardash, Ukraine</i> – Regulator: <i>Vitaly Belevich, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Belarus</i> – Civil Society: <i>Anna Sosnowska, WWF BEP, Poland</i> – Research: <i>Aliaksandr Pahomau, Central Scientific Research Institute for Comprehensive Use of Water Bodies, Belarus</i> – Funding: <i>Marjukka Porvari, John Nurminen Foundation, Finland</i>
13:00-14:00	Plenary II. Sustainable development and agriculture
13:00-13:20	<p>SDGs and Agriculture (cross-sectorial approach, SDGs 2,3,6, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Dietrich Schultz, independent expert, former Chair of HELCOM AGRI Group, Germany</i>
13:20-13:40	<p>Accelerators for SDGs implementation in Belarus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Natalia Minchenko, coordinator of the UNEP Project to support activities of the national SDG Coordinator and the role of the Parliament in achieving SDGs</i>
13:40-13:50	<p>Healthy Food – Healthy Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Natalia Cholovska, Ecoterra, Ukraine</i>
13:50-14:00	Introduction to Parallel sections
14:00-15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00-16:30	Parallel sections
	<p>1. Nutrient recycling / Nutrient accounting – Regional prospects <i>Moderator: Eugeniy Lobanov, Center for Environmental Solutions</i> 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting committed to elaborate by 2020 a BSR Nutrient Recycling Strategy aiming for reduced nutrient inputs to and eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. Ministers based their decision, being aware that replacement of nitrogen fertilizer could contribute to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and that phosphorus is a limited natural resource and a critical raw material, for which recycling methods for use in agricultural production already exist; and recognising also that nutrient resources are not optimally managed everywhere and that there is a need to improve both recycling of nutrients and their efficiency of use. Likewise, 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting agreed to promote and advance towards applying by 2018 at the latest annual nutrient accounting at farm level taking into account soil and climate conditions giving the possibility to reach nutrient balanced fertilization and reduce nutrient losses at regional level in the countries, noting the positive examples of mandatory requirements on nutrient bookkeeping in some HELCOM countries and with an aim to apply it region-wide, as a first step, in areas critical to nutrient losses. However, this work has not progressed further since compilation of respective regional report. This session will address both processes including whether nutrient accounting can become an instrument for the nutrient recycling region-wide.</p> <p><u>Proposed speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sustainable nutrient management and recycling, SuMaNU Project approach <i>Paula Biveson, Baltic Sea Action Group (Finland/Sweden)</i> – Nutrient balanced fertilisation and nutrient accounting <i>Gunnar Norén, CCB & Dietrich Schultz, Germany</i>
	<p>2. Climate and agriculture <i>Moderator: Valdur Lahtvee, Policy Advisor, EUSBSR Horizontal Action Climate, CBSS</i> Climate change is one of the most pressing environmental issues today. Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. In 2018 in several Baltic Sea States a state of emergency was declared i.e. in the logging sector of Latvia due to heavy rains and floods in autumn, due to loss of agricultural crops in Estonia and spreading of forest fires in Sweden due to heavy draught in summer. Changes in climate affect the environment in several ways. Some of the effects are direct (for example, the effects of temperature and precipitation on vegetation survival and productivity),</p>

	<p>others indirect (for example, increased nutrient runoff due to changed precipitation). The seasonality of the nutrient input is also likely to change, because the projected changes in precipitation and snow conditions imply increased river runoff in winter but reduced runoff during late spring and summer. Higher temperatures may also increase respiration and accelerate decomposition of organic matter in soil. Another risk associated with warming is a northward expansion of pests and pathogens.</p> <p>These are just examples of possible effects of climate change on various economic activities, including agriculture, as being the most dependent on natural conditions. This session aims to address those effects in further detail.</p> <p><u>Proposed speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strategy for adaptation of agriculture to climate change in the Republic of Belarus <i>Lyubov Gertman, Head of the Unit of Hydrology and Water Protection Areas, Central Scientific Research Institute for the Water Resources, Belarus</i> – Carbon Action Project: carbon sequestration from atmosphere into agricultural soil <i>Paula Biveson, Baltic Sea Action Group (Finland/Sweden)</i>
	<p>3. Farmer's dialogue on agriculture and environment <i>Moderator: Lennart Gladh, CCB</i></p> <p>From Baltic Farmers Forum on Environment statement at 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting: "Farmers cultivating the land in the catchment of the Baltic Sea welcome an increased cooperation between HELCOM and the agricultural sector. This has been wanted for many years. Many fruitful partnerships have already taken place, but they have mainly been limited to individual projects. It is time to broaden collaboration and involve more farmers. Every day, thousands of farmers use a vast array of measures to reach the country allocation targets for nutrients, while ensuring food safety and security. This work is essential, an approach, based on inclusion of and cooperation with farmers, is necessary. BFFE suggests that cooperation with farmers' organizations should be equally important to other undertakings by HELCOM, such as launching a common manure standard. Without the concrete involvement of farmers, technical improvements, new standards and advice will not be as successful as they could be. Therefore, we suggest that a new task force is set up to start the dialogue on how to enhance cooperation and involvement".</p> <p>WWF Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award and Greener Agriculture for a Sustainable Sea Conference are among such initiatives where environment and agriculture stakeholders meet and openly discuss on the most pressing challenges. Other possible formats of such dialogue and platforms could be discussed, as well as other issues of mutual interest.</p> <p><u>Proposed speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agri-environmental measures in Poland <i>Maria Staniszewska, Polish Ecological Club</i> – Gypsum treatment of agricultural fields in Finland - to reduce nutrient load and suspended solids runoff <i>Marjukka Porvari, John Nurminen Foundation, Finland</i> – Baltic Slurry Acidification (BSA) Project: ways to reduce ammonia emissions <i>Erik Sindhöj, Baltic Slurry Acidification (BSA) Project leader; SLU</i>
	<p>4. Water Protection in Agriculture (NCM), project meeting <i>Moderator Mikhail Durkin, CCB</i></p> <p>Project meeting will discuss the progress and prospects of the Healthy River – Healthy Me – Healthy Sea Project that is led by CCB in cooperation with number of regional partners</p>
16:30-17:00	<i>Coffee-break</i>
17:00-18:00	Plenary III
17:00-17:15	Rapporteurs from section work
17:15-17:45	Vision for the Baltic Sea Region 2030 – <i>Olga Zuin, Baltic 2030 Unit, CBSS Secretariat</i>
17:45-18:00	Concluding remarks
18:15-20:00	Get together

14 December, Friday	
09:00-10:00	Registration and welcome coffee <i>(participants are invited to visit exhibition of organic production and awareness raising literature/books)</i>
	Organic Agriculture and its prospects in Belarus
10:00-10:30	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Valdimir Grakun, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food – Mikhail Durkin, Executive Secretary, Coalition Clean Baltic – Eugeniy Lobanov, Director, Center for Environmental Solutions – Svetlana Semenas, Chair of the Board, Agro-Eco-Culture
10:30-11:30	Organic agriculture in Belarus
10:30-11:00	Presentation of the results of opinion poll on attitude of Belarusians towards organic agriculture products <i>Olga Fablinova, Advisor, Dept. of Sociological Surveys, Information and Analytical Center, Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus</i>
11:00-11:20	Organic agriculture development in Belarus <i>Lyubomir Klepach, Center for Environmental Solutions</i>
11:20-13:30	Panel discussions
11:30-12:10	Development of a legal base for organic agriculture development in Belarus and neighbouring countries / BSR <i>Moderator: Lyubomir Klepach</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Sergey Galashevskiy, Director, Organic Standard, Ukraine;</i> – <i>Tatiana Karbonovich, Deputy Head of Main Dept. of Crop Production, Ministry of Agriculture and Food;</i> – <i>Dmitry Lutaev, organic farmer, Brest region, Belarus</i> – <i>Santa Rīdere, Senior Expert of Organic Production Verification, State Center of Certification and Testing, Latvia;</i> – <i>tbc</i>
12:10-12:50	Development of organic agriculture market in Belarus, pre-conditions in Belarus and neighbouring countries / BSR <i>Moderator: Uladzimir Zueu</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Vitaly Belookiy, Deputy Director, Healthy Country LLC</i> – <i>Yegor Dubovka, Head of Supplies & Sales Dept, Production Company, Belarus</i> – <i>Oleg Myronenko, Managing Director, National Organic Union, Russia</i> – <i>Arsen Kerimbekov, Director, Union of Organic Producers, Kazakhstan</i> – <i>tbc</i>
12:50-13:30	Education and research for sustainable agriculture in Belarus and neighbouring countries / BSR <i>Moderator: Victor Ermolenkov</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Natalia Parechyna, Center for Environmental Solutions;</i> – <i>Vladimir Radovlya, Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> – <i>Sergey Zhuravel, Zhitomir National Agroecological University, Ukraine;</i> – <i>Svetlana Semenas, Chair of the Board, Agro-Eco-Culture;</i> – <i>Dmitry Vojtko, Institute of Plant Protection</i>
13:30-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:10	Sections

	<p>1. Development of a legal base for organic agriculture development in Belarus and neighbouring countries / BSR <i>New European Regulation (EC 848/2018) and what to expect from it? Sergey Galashevskiy, Director, Organic Standard, Ukraine</i></p>
	<p>2. Development of organic agriculture market in Belarus, pre-conditions in Belarus and neighbouring countries / BSR <i>Trends in development of Russian organic market. Oleg Myronenko, Managing Director, National Organic Union, Russia</i></p>
	<p>3. Education and research for sustainable agriculture in Belarus and neighbouring countries / BSR <i>Peculiarities of theoretic and practical education of Bachelors and Masters of Science in organic agriculture major in Ukraine. Sergey Zhuravel, Zhitomir National Agroecological University, Ukraine</i></p>
16:10-16:30	Coffee-break
16:30-17:00	Rapporteurs from section work
17:00-17:30	Concluding remarks