

Initial project proposal date:28.3.96  
Revision of (date):

by: P.Fankhauser  
by:

Project short name: **Biofarming BF**

Project title: **Initiation of organic farming movement in Baranja**

Aim of the project:

**To facilitate reintegration of refugees/displaced persons in the Baranja area by promoting organic farming techniques**

#### **Expected results:**

- Courses on organic farming for ethnically mixed groups
- Initiate cultivation contracts between farmers/cooperatives and european importers.
- Provide working opportunities for returned people in organic farms
- Set up of several smaller farms or sections of larger cooperatives for organic farming at their own initiative

#### **Major activities:**

- Introductory talk to farmers and directors of cooperatives to explain advantages.
- Discussion with temporary administration on legal possibilities to secure status of biofarms during future reprivatisation
- Make contacts to importers and authorities in Switzerland to initiate contract negotiations
- Expert visits on behalf of contractors
- Initiation of courses (e.g. at initiative of FIBL and/or Landwirtschaftliche Schule Ebenrain)

#### **Justification:**

Baranja is an intrinsically rich rural area. The country is ecologically very sensitive. The traditional markets for their production are either no longer existing or financially unsound.

The EU with its own agriculture problems will not be a future market for standard crops.

In BRD and Switzerland however, there is still a shortage in bio-crops; thus a potential market with financial power. Export of such special crops might still be possible.

Organic farming is very labor intensive. Organic farms in Baranja would be easily capable of providing work and income to returning people.

Organic farming is a future oriented way of economic development that preserves the natural wealth of the area.

Ecologically based sustainable development of the area is a goal that might give people again a long-term vision which might help them in surviving everyday problems.

### Milestones:

	Scheduled end date:
Talks to Farmers	April 96, done
Talks to UNTAES	April 96, done
Expert visits	Mai 96
Dr. Palasthy, Kündig	23.4.96
Course program designed and funding found	Mai 96
Introductory course, 1 week, FIBL	Mai 96
Continuous course program	July 96
First contracts	June 96

### Project organisation:

Owner: P. Fankhauser

Projectleader: local: Bert van der Linde

Team-members:

Bert van der Linde, Stevan Crnogorac, Slavica Singer,

### Preparatory actions:

An importer for crops in Switzerland who is interested, has been identified. Fa. Kündig in Zürich.

The FIBL (Forschungsinstitut für Biologische Landwirtschaft (Mr. Niggli) and the Landwirtschaftlich Schule Ebenrain (BL, Switzerland, Mr. U.Gysin) have expressed their interest in organizing courses either in Baranja or in Switzerland

Mr. Milorad Nenadovic (director of Beljetrans) has taken over the task to organize some farmers and directors of Belje for a discussion in Beli Manastir April 6, 1996

Meetings with a few farmers in Vukovar and Baranja have taken place. Discussions with Oblast government, office for reintegration and UNTAES have been successful.(s. trip report P.Fankhauser April 96)

### Project resources:

Initial travel and meetings:	SFr.	3000
Cost of initial expert visits:	SFr.	5000
Cost for local course:	SFr.	10000
Extended course program:	SFr.	50000

Extended expertise activities: to be covered by supply contracts  
Investments in seed, equipment, recoverable on cost of crops, possibly cattle  
etc: to be guaranteed by authorities or institutions.

**Approval of project**

Appointment of project organisation:

Meeting:

Date: Visum:

Approval of financial resources:

Sponsor-Organisation:

Date: Signature: