

Standardni projekt AGRI - KNOWS [Prenos znanja v kmetijstvu kot dodana vrednost pri zaščiti okolja] /Progetto standard AGRI-KNOWS [Trasferimento delle conoscenze in agricoltura come valore aggiunto per la tutela dell'ambiente]

REPORT OF STUDENTS

Professional excursions

03/26/2014

EXAMPLES OF GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Prepared by the students of Biotechnical school, participating in the project AGRI-KNOWS



2007-2013
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Projekt sofinanciran v okviru Programa čezmejnega sodelovanja Slovenija-Italija 2007-2013 iz sredstev Evropskega sklada za regionalni razvoj in nacionalnih sredstev
Progetto finanziato nell'ambito del Programma per la Cooperazione Transfrontaliera Italia-Slovenia 2007-2013, dal Fondo europeo regionale e dai fondi nazionali



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1. INTRODUCTION

On 26th of March we (students of Biotechnical school) went on a field trip in Koper, under cross-border project Agri-Knows. We visited three farms, from which one is included in the organic production and the other two in integrated production. Here below we describe the farm Štular because we were most impressed with the organic farm.

2. Description of organic farm ŠTULAR

The farm is located in the village of Dragonja at the cross border with Croatia. Greenhouses are placed in the valley of Drnica. Here they produce vegetables, grain, olive oil and persimmon.

It comprises 25 ha of arable land, of which takes place vegetable production - 1 ha of covered area (lettuce, watermelons, melons, marrows, courgettes the tree and other fruit). Annually they establish a crop - vegetable rotation, so they produce grain at least 8 ha of arable land. In the farm is also carried out regularly plowed or green manure for sustainable conservation of soil fertility. On their property are also 700 olive trees.

Due to the proximity of the sea they have sub-Mediterranean climate; with mild winters, hot summers and frequent wind. The floors are filled with flysch and clay. Organic matter in the soil is very low, up to 2 %. The most important reason for that is lack of livestock. Also crop rotation is limited due to lack of land. The floors are salinated, because of high penetration of sea water into irrigation canals. The pH of the soil may reach a value of 7.2 to 8.5. This causes problems in cultivation of crops.



Picture 1: Double protection of tomato

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The farm respects; nature, the economy and humans. Its production is focused in such a way that the plants are healthy, beautiful to look at and contain the maximum amount of nutrients. This is achieved with the proper mode of production. It is based on the selection of appropriate varieties that are less sensitive to harmful effects of the environment. By choosing appropriate variety of plants it is reduced the need for treatment. For fertilization it is used organic fertilizer from organic farms in the form of pellets. Instead of pesticides, which are not allowed, they are used biological control agents against pest predators. Furthermore for pollination they applied bumble bees. The farm has also problems with nematodes, which are suppressed with fungus Tiranum from Netherlands.

In the farm are trying to get as many crops, so 2 or 3 times per year they plant vegetables on the same land. The plants must use all the nutrients from the soil and follow the specific order, dictated by good crop rotation.

In early spring time are planted cherry tomatoes. They have collected varieties with smaller fruits, because they are more resistant to many pests. In addition, they are also planted peppers and cucumbers, spinach and arugula, cabbage, lettuce, potatoes, various types of pumpkins, radishes, lettuce, watermelons, melons and cereals. Annually production is 100 tonnes of vegetables, from witch 99 % is sold in the Agricultural Cooperative Agraria Koper.

3. Sustainable development

Sustainable development is an organizing principle for human life on a finite planet. It posits a desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resource-use meet human needs without undermining the sustainability of natural systems and the environment, so that future generations may also have their needs met.

ŠTULAR FARM

- The use of predators for pest control on biotic way.
- Plant Pollination using bumble bees.
- Selection of resistant varieties with smaller fruits.
- Roof ventilation protected spaces for protection against pests that invade from the side.
- Droplet irrigation system, which is under the protective foil to minimize water evaporation from the soil and minimize air humidification.
- Fertilization explicitly only with organic pellets.
- Treatment of nematodes by the fungus Trianum.
- Crop rotation.
- They do not use plows, but only shallow tillage.
- The weeds are destroyed only with multiple processing (mechanical).

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Picture 2: Temperature control of the air with the water in the plastic foil



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