

# The SONDAR Danube Soil Alliance Annual Conference 2015

## Day 2: Workshop 1.

### Plan for the Poor

#### Flipchart 1

After the right to pure air and water and the need for shelter, everyone has the need for food. This Plan will focus on developing a station in the Danube Region where replicable methods of community food production will be demonstrated and taught. The key elements of the Plan must include:

1. It must address the injustice of inequality in any community – access to affordable quality food, food sovereignty, age / race / gender / disability, poor health, refugees, post-antibiotic remedies. The response must be sustainable and include income generation and job creation through social enterprise.
2. Project Description: The main hub demonstration and training station to be established in the Danube Valley with the first satellite station in Scotland [building on the existing technology and training collaboration between Austria and Scotland through the Vermigrand – Greenway association]. Such stations will demonstrate low capital, replicable methods for household, community and rural village communities... essentially needing no more than “a fork and a hoe” and the know how.
3. Project Function: This will be an international centre for community soil and food production. Its methods must involve only low capital cost, low energy, low materials requirements but with a high social impact. There must be garden models for urban and rural situations and for the differing climatic conditions along the Valley. The Training Programmes must be non-academic, focusing on heritage culture, lifestyle, knowledge, understanding and practical skills.
4. Programme Topics must include: regenerating soil fertility without the need for machinery or chemical, countering soil erosion, soil moisture management, recycling organics to generate soil humus and maximise soil fertility, how to grow your own food nature’s way, healthy mind / body / wellbeing, resilient communities, and the opportunities for social enterprise within the community to generate a resilient local economy.
5. Delivery Partners: included in those invited to participate should be – the EU the NO Departments of Energy, Environment, Soil and Health, the WHO, BOKU University, the Absdorf, business CSR interests, Christian aid organisations, Foundations for Farming ... also Greenway Consulting Scotland with Social Enterprise Scotland and the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. This will draw on a wealth of existing collaborative work to address this most urgent calling – the needs of the poor throughout the Danube Valley and beyond.
6. Station operation: the Station will require experienced practitioner trainers along with volunteers all passionate to make a real difference for all the socially excluded. It will attract trainee interns. However, one major element in the operations on site will be the social enterprises which will be growing and retailing fresh and making added value products. There will be a required logistics, transport and accommodation activity. The facility will have a substantial impact on the local economy.

## Flipchart 2

7. The training of soil ambassadors to go back to their communities and show that everyone has the right to food requires ... Understanding ... Knowledge ... Skills ... a holistic approach. Trainers need to know about natural herbal medicines for people – and for soils.
8. For a programme in capacity building of people and communities ... in rural or urban locations ... to be sustainable, it must incorporate social enterprise opportunities to create work, for example in preparing and marketing food products and herbal extract tinctures.
9. Training must be to generate lifestyle changes ... from dependency to resilient self reliance.
10. It should be based on the simple but profound Foundations for Farming [FFF] principles: on time ... to standard ... no waste ... with Joy. These are universally applicable. It requires strong and competent management.

## Flipchart 3

11. All of the injustices in the world are essentially due to SELFISHNESS. The best counter to this is engage in working for the poor. There should be many opportunities for volunteers to be involved in the operation of the Stations.
12. We should have a PftP Masterplan. Each Station can start small and grow. The network of Stations can start small ... possibly in Austria and Scotland ... and then spread worldwide. This is what happened with FFF and it has proved to be very effective.

## Flipchart 4

13. Katrina Madrid of Anamed, Germany, shared her experience of working with the poorest of soils in Madagascar ... a series of two rows of hedging / trees along the contour all down the slope, underplanted with legumes and grassed to block soil loss during heavy rains. With heavy applications of green manure in Year 1 and a lesser amount in Year 2 and thereafter, from Year 3 the soil fertility regeneration was such that substantial crop yield were obtained.

## Day 2: WORKSHOP 2

### Flipchart Notes

#### **University Cooperation for the Poor in the Danube Delta**

Student Projects ... private plots ... Herbs & Honey ...Community Centre

Green Delta Youth Camps

Clean water for locals

Renovating buildings in the traditional way

Microfinancing of projects

... also Artists Projects with Workshops to revive old traditional knowledge ... knitting fishing nets ... metal work ... construct homes traditionally

... also theatre and performance Projects

