



**B.A.A.N**  
BALKAN AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS NETWORK



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**SIDA funded SFARM project**

Europe & Euroasia Bureau – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Event  
Competitiveness, Finance and Economic Growth  
Sarajevo, 19 May, 2010



# History of BAAN



- 2006 - Conference on regional trade issues in agriculture;
- 2008 - Conference on regional competitiveness on the global market;
- 2008/2009 – BAAN Pilot Project.

all supported by SIDA through the SFARM (Support to Farmers' Organizations in the Republic of Macedonia) project



# Vision of BAAN

## Vision 2015

**To have contributed to the development of a competitive, market-orientated agriculture sector that produces healthy and safe products produced with a concern for the protection of the environment; and that has improved the living standards of farmers through well-organized Farmers' Associations that have developed good analytical and policy dialogue capabilities, Cross Border Cooperation and that have contributed to successful EU accession.**



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# BAAN Pilot Project

- Structured 5 conference series
- Forum in which representatives from farmers' organizations from the region meet to discuss and share experiences
- 16 representatives from 14 farmers' organizations from 6 Western Balkan countries (Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina)





# BAAN Pilot Project

## Topics

- Forms of organization (NGOs, trade companies, co-operatives and individual farming);
- Management and structures of modern interest farmers' organizations;
- Gender and equity issues in farmers' organizations;
- Project cycle management and leadership;
- Entrepreneurship and business planning;
- Policy analysis, policy dialogue, lobbying and networking;
- Environmental issues;
- EU and national agricultural and other relevant legislation;
- EU institutions and their roles and obligations, including the EESC.



# Achieved Outcomes

## ***Achieved outcomes for the individual participants***

After the training, participants are able to:

- spread knowledge, in an advisory capacity in their respective countries;
- maintain close relations with each other in an informal regional network where important information and knowledge would be exchanged (export of World Wide Sires semen from Albania to Kosovo and Macedonia) ;
- prepare CBC projects in partnership with neighboring countries (Macedonia and Kosovo);
- aid their organizations with lobbying vis-à-vis governmental and non-governmental institutions.

## ***Achieved outcomes of the project***

- A situational analysis made of the positions of farmers and rural organizations in the region, as well as of the possibilities for cooperation among participating organizations in the development of a regional network;
- Sister organizations from the region brought closer together and closer integration of the countries in the region achieved;
- A “list” of common issues for the sector in the region developed;
- A joint regional cooperation concept developed (to be used as a base for a project request).



# Why need for continuation of BAAN

- The absence of farmers' representative organizations contributes to increasing the democratic deficit at the crucial time;
- BAAN is about strengthening the role and voice of civil society ;
- Initiatives exist for functional establishment of EU compatible **public** institutions, systems, delivery mechanisms, and services in the region. Where are **farmers**?

**The rationale for BAAN is about mitigating the risk that decisions about farmers' future are taken on their behalf (over their heads)**



# Concept for BAAN

Two levels:

- Regional

- regular flow of sharing experiences and intra-farmers' organization learning
- lectures/discussions with international specialists in areas identified by the network representatives
- study tours.

- National (“SFARM-light” )

- national support programs to facilitate the emergence of cohesive farmers' organizations and develop a strong common voice in the development process.



# Expected Outcomes

- Stronger civil society in the rural areas
- Improved cooperation among farmers in the region
- Better understanding of the demand from the global market
- Shared experiences and learning process in the EU accession
- Strengthened lobbying position
- Improved competitiveness on the global market



# BAAN Participants and signatories

## BAAN participants and signatories:

Name and surname	Country of Residence	Organisation	Position
Valbona Ylli	Albania	Livestock Entrepreneurs Association of Albania (LEAA)	Executive Director
Tritan Cako	Albania	Association & Business Management Center (ABMC)	Executive Director
Antigoni Ndomi	Albania	Hope Association	President
Sead Jelać	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Association of Farmers in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Secretary
Esed Muhić	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Cooperative Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina	President
Ljubo Rakić	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Cooperative Union of the Republika Srpska	President
Qamil Krasniqi	Kosovo*	Agroferma	Secretary
Shyqeri Krasniqi	Kosovo	Anadrini	Executive Director
Zenel Bunjaku	Kosovo	Initiative for Agricultural Development of Kosovo (IADK)	Executive Director
Dragoljub Nenezic	Montenegro	Association of Agricultural Producers of Montenegro	Vice-President (and next President, according to the Statute)
Ratko Bataković	Montenegro	Agro Group (NGO)	President
Marija Ognjenović	Serbia	Civil Association Agromreza	Director of the Programme "Market Information System" and member of "Agromreza" Board
Nenad Novaković	Serbia	TERRA'S Association	President
Trajan Dimkovski	Macedonia	Federation of Farmers in the Republic of Macedonia	Executive Director
Nedim Kasami	Macedonia	Federation of Farmers in the Republic of Macedonia	Vice-President
Suzana Dimitrievska	Macedonia	Federation of Farmers in the Republic of Macedonia	Member

\* stands for Kosovo under UNSC resolution 1244