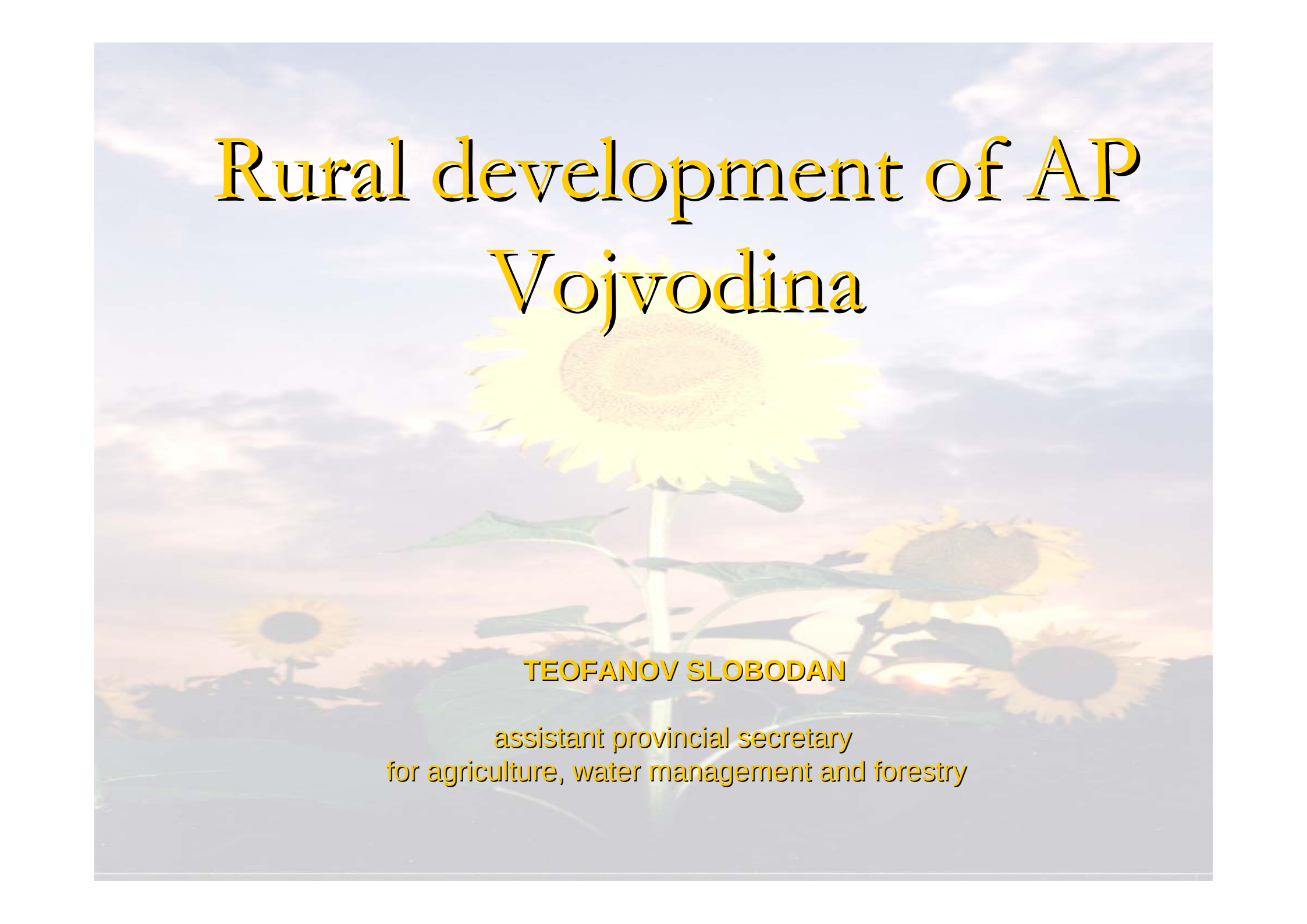


A background image showing a field of sunflowers under a cloudy sky. The sunflowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others still budding. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

Rural development of AP Vojvodina

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Serbia and Vojvodina – rural area?

- Serbia is one of most agricultural countries in Europe
- Rural area occupies around 80% of total territory
- Agriculture employs around one third of active population
- 87% of 415 non-urban settlements have negative population growth
- 43% of Vojvodina population lives in non-urban settlements,
- One quarter of active farmers are older than 65,
- Average farm is around 3 ha per household.

UNDP RESEARCH

- Around 50 % of households are up to 3 ha.
- 79% of Vojvodina small households had never used foundation support, while 15% tried to reach it, but without positive answer.
- Only 4% of small rural households in Vojvodina were able to reach help through some kind of foundation.
- 74% of them don't have idea or aren't informed of existing government programmes
- Half of all small rural households recognize the fact that their main source of income is from agriculture.

Vojvodina

■ Financing rural development:

1. Regional development in socio-economic, cultural, demographic, infrastructural and other ways
2. Reducing unemployment,
3. Transfer good practice from EU and informing of existing structural foundations,
4. Offering diverse choice of possibilities for economic diversification to small rural households and interest groups/decision makers,

“LEADER” and PROGRAMME OF SECRETARIAT

- 5.000.000 Din (60.000 Eur) is set aside for support of LEADER programme,
- Support will be given to undeveloped rural areas that show interest and ability to develop and implement pilot strategy of rural development.
- Forming Local Action Groups in undeveloped rural areas:
 - decision about criteria for setting status of undeveloped regions in APV.
- Final beneficiaries of LEADER programme are Local Action Groups and entire population in suggested area.
- LAG form open local partnership in which power and responsibility are clearly divided among several partners. Their partners can be different socio-economic sectors in local area and non-profitable associations which must consist at least 50% of local partnership. Members of LAG must be from local area.
- LAGs participate in bringing local development strategies which results with projects for applying .

How to conduct the measures?

- ❑ By forming the partnership between Secretariat, local authorities and PARTNER,
- ❑ PARTNER can propose themes and contents to the Secretariat,
- ❑ New themes and contents in 2008,
- ❑ Support will be given to PARTNERS who show interest for work with LAGs,
- ❑ PARTNER's can be public and private sector, domestic and foreign institutions...
- ❑ Given support is based on presentation of development plan.

Priorities

■ **Priority themes** with special significance for province:

- improving life quality in rural areas;
- improving management of natural and cultural heritage,
- competitiveness in agriculture, land management, nature, renewable sources of energy, rural tourism, hunting, fishery...
- diversification of activities,
- creating conditions for best possible usage of natural and cultural resources...

Rural areas

- Suggested areas don't match national and local administrative boundaries,
- Support is related to smaller rural areas which have necessary resources for implementing development strategy.
- 50.000-70.000 inhabitants in area is defined by project.
- Headquarters of LAG is in local community!

AREAS

1. Čoka
2. Alibunar
3. Žitište
4. Irig
5. Mali Idjoš.

Organization is conducted through business plan:

- Plan for 2007 – 2008 .
- BASIC elements- education and setting methodology for work of group,
- SPECIAL elements (content)- prposed by Partner, Secretariat and local authority,

Themes and content can be:

- Organic agriculture,
- Use of renewable sources of energy,
- Creation of business plans.....

Existing proposed business plans

BASIC
elements

- Activities on creating development strategy of undeveloped areas.
- Education of LAG members about working methodology.
- Expanding, exchange and collecting data about potentials and advantages for region development and about possibilities for applying rural development projects to state foundations and institutions.

SPECIAL
elements
UNDP

- Improving position of small rural households. Securing effective collection, expanding and exchange of data and enhance massive interest among small rural households about sustained development and economic diversification.
- Partnership of rural structures. Cherish the partnership between local and regional interest groups so that common interest issues are identified and also the common field of acting in development of system for “bottom-up” support.

Results of a business plan:

- Campaigns related with raising consciousness and possibilities for stimulating LEADER approach for:
 - a) Informing people about economic possibilities through rural diversification,
 - b) Setting up potentials for submitting applications to existing foundations,
 - c) Stimulating marginalized groups to apply, especially women;
- Completed study about obstacles and possibilities of small rural households in rural development.
- Practice of LAG completed. Methodology learned.
- Base of knowledge created so it can be implemented in other parts of Province and country.
- At least two study trips for interested groups for educational purposes (decision and policy makers)
- Projects selected on competitive base, proposed by local group concerning possibilities and support for employment.
- Completed regional development strategies in 2008. /5 strategies/.
- Set up cooperative network among multiple number of LAG's and different institutions, (Hungary, Italy...).

Tasks of LAG

- Elects secretary of the group/part-time job until realization of project/,
- Communication with experts/bodies/, institutions, secretariat....
- Brings a Regulation book concerning its duties,
- Registers itself as a NGO,
- Prepares analysis of regional development and brings up suggestions and approvals for local projects and sub-projects.
- LAG is a unit that bears project starting from finding participants, deploys service provider on local level, to end of efficiency evaluation,
- It develops, conducts, updates, registers and reports development strategies, ;
- Cooperation with other LAG's, organization of workshops, informing about other programme events...
- Daily exchange of ideas and experience with local population.

Methodology of operative phases:

1. Territorial animation – analysis of an area,
2. Programming –territorial potential should become a programme,
3. Planning –turning programmes into specific project actions,
4. Conducting and controlling –application and grading quality of action.

Managing business plan

- Secretariat for agriculture, water management and forestry/rural development sector/ represents Executive project agency.
- Secretariat will appoint two persons which will perform duties of regional project director(RDP) and regional project director deputy. They will response to Secretariat and will perform as a project executives on behalf of the Executive agency.
- Project will be supervised by rural development sector through LAG with tight cooperation with local authorities and project manager.
- Rural development sector appoints members of programme council for rural development.

Programme council for rural development(PSRR)

- Crucial decision maker- representatives of Secretariat,/rural development sector/, and other members assigned by Secretariat. This body also consists of permanent representative/deputy and project manager appointed by project PARTNER.
- PSRR will be in session at least six times a year, and, necessarily more often.
- PSRR coordinates work of LAG's, creates network among them and cooperates wit LAG's outside Vojvodina.

Coordinator

- On top of LAG are regional project coordinator who is appointed by project PARTNER/ permanent member/manager and regional project director(RDP).
- Regional project coordinator (RRP) is responsible for efficient and prompt conduct of project activities based on project plan approval, and for governing LAG staff.

Conducting the projects

- Secretariat ensures 60.000 Euros for project. Each LAG is granted 12.000 Eur.
- Tripartite Memo about cooperation (MoU) will be signed with all municipalities that are participating in project (between municipality, PARTNER and Secretariat).
- Non-financial obligations of municipalities participating in project will imply: participation of mayor in coordinative and consultative project meetings, ensuring office in municipality for LAG needs for local project consultant, ensure room for LAG meetings and appointing one municipality officer as a member of LAG.
- Time of project realization is 12 months as of December 2007..

Reports and evaluation

- Three month reports about plan realization which contain all aspects of project are provided by regional project coordinator after consulting with PARTNER/manager. They are submitted to Programme council for examination and recommendations.
- Yearly reports are prepared by regional project coordinator and are submitted to Executive agency and PARTNER.
- Project will be object of external revision during every year of project implementation.
- Revision will also be done by government body/Executive council of AP Vojvodina/ or independent inspector hired by PARTNER in cooperation with Executive agency.

Provincial secretariat for agriculture, water management and forestry

- Elects members of LAG's,
- Participates in elaboration of development programme,
- Communicates with local authorities and other public and private sector,
- Chooses in which areas will LAG be formed,
- Chooses PARTNER for content of LAG, suggested by Programme council for rural development,
- Brings a Regulation book for LAG's...

A photograph of a fall harvest display. In the background, a large wooden wagon is filled with yellow corn cobs and several large orange pumpkins. To the left of the wagon, a yellow metal rack holds numerous sunflowers. In the foreground, three wicker baskets are filled with corn and pumpkins. A large bunch of white turnips with green tops is arranged on the ground in front of the baskets. The scene is set outdoors on a paved area, with a chain-link fence and industrial buildings visible in the background.

Thanks for Your
attention !

Procedure of operating activities

- Conversation with local authority representatives,
- Defining headquarters of LAG's through Regulation book,
- Forming NGO as a structural form of LAG,
- Defining work body for executing programme plans,
- Defining deadlines of activities,
- Exchange of data and cooperation with potential PARTNERS,
- Signing contracts with local authorities and PARTNER for ensuring realization of existing plan by December 15th 2007.