



Polish Ecological Club

**Polish Coalition to Support Organic
Agriculture for Successful Implementation
Sustainable Rural Policy**

Polish alternative – development organic agriculture

- Helps economy – employment for more people
- Helps health – more food without chemicals
- Helps environment – less of nitrogen leakage by:
 - Balancing arable land and number of livestock, defining by organic criteria
 - Reducing the massive flows of nitrogen in agriculture production
 - Encouraging variation in crop rotation
 - Providing proper management of the manure

The Polish Ecological Club (PEC), Gliwice Chapter initiated the creation of the Polish Coalition to Support organic Agriculture in 1998 to have a tool which help us impact on rural policy. The Coalition's members include 22 non-governmental organisations, research institutions and organic food and farming associations. PEC Gliwice acts as the umbrella organisation for the Coalition and its President and Secretariat are located in Gliwice.

Goals

The Coalition decided to develop common initiatives

- in legislation
- marketing

raise public awareness to promote organic agriculture in Poland

Result after 7 years of activities is:

- The bill on organic agriculture which was passed on March 16, 2001 (Journal of law Nr 38, pos.452) and has been force after 6 months. The bill regulates means of production of agricultural products and their processing, their labelling as organic products and establishes an overall control system.
- In 2002 the number of certified and converting farms in 2002 is 1997 with 53 515 ha. In last three years the amount of farms increased 300%.

Nation-wide activities:

- PKE Gliwice provides Non-governmental Information Center about Organic Agriculture (the only one in Poland). Its main goals are: dissemination of information about organic agriculture, contacting farmers and certifying bodies, organising trainings for farmers (this year two trainings)
- activities promoting localisation of food chain (one near Brodnica where are located two organic process plants - pasta and juices production – and several organic farms and second one near Kluczbork - with one cereal process plant and 6 organic farms. These examples will promote local organic food selling systems

Nation-wide activities:

- Promotion of pesticide alternatives: there will be prepared and disseminated brochure and leaflet about interactions between agriculture and environment
- Preparing different materials on agricultural policy (leaflets, brochures). Our publications are now used by farmer's advisory centres and other institutions working for rural areas.

Local activities:

- co-operation with municipalities and districts on sustainable rural development. There were organised four training's for rural leaders from rural municipalities surrounding Gliwice. The very important issue of the training were possibilities for sustainable rural development that brings EU accession (especially II pillar of CAP funds)
- dissemination of materials

**The project
“Baltic Ecological Recycling
Agriculture and Society”
in Poland.**

Partners: county of Brodnica, Ecoland
Association, IUNG, PKE

Targets groups:

Farmers,
food processors,
local retailers,
consumers,
people interested in sustainable development
from different regions (NGOs, politicians,
self-governments' representatives, etc.),
scientists and students working on rural development
issues.

The main goal and objectives:

The aim of the project is filling an information gap about the ways of reducing of consumption of non-renewable resources and reducing the negative influence of production, processing, distribution and consumption of food on Baltic Sea Environment.

The aim will be realised by the following tasks:

- showing that the societies based on the local organic product use less non-renewable resources, as well as reduce nutrient leaching and emission of greenhouse gases and at the same time are economically and energetically effective;
- promotion and popularising organic production, processing, local food distribution and consumption as the best solutions for the environment of Baltic Sea.