INTRODUCTION

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are implementing the project “Supporting sustainable agrifood value chain integration in Montenegro’s fruit and vegetable sector” in collaboration with the Montenegrin Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Support in organization of this exchange was also received from the Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije and Secretariat for rural and sustainable development, Municipality of Bijelo Polje.

This knowledge exchange has been developed specifically for participants from Montenegro with the aim to introduce Montenegrin value chain actors to:

- advanced production technologies, including new trellising systems for raspberries and new varieties;
- post-harvest handling technologies as well as value-adding through packaging and processing;
- meeting market requirements through aggregating, packaging, compliance with international standards and certification;
- the role and importance of organization through agricultural cooperatives and associations.

The itinerary includes visits to leading nurseries, cooperatives and associations, producers of relevant equipment (greenhouses and irrigation), as well as processors.

Experiences in Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) are relevant for the following reasons:

- Both Serbia and BiH have a long tradition in berry production. Serbia is 5th and 7th largest raspberry producer in the world.
- In BiH, berries are by far the most important export product, accounting for about 40 percent of the value of all exports from the BiH fruit and vegetable sector. More than 38 million EUR of frozen berries were exported in 2017.
- BiH has been trialing new varieties (for fresh and frozen market) and trellising systems in the last five years.
- Rapid growth of the berry sector has brought economic benefits but also issues (due to global oversupply in 2017 resulting in a falling price) and such lessons learned would be invaluable for Montenegrin producers in planning their production, adaptive management and mitigating risks as a result of global price oscillations.
DAY 1. Monday, 17 September

6.30    Depart Podgorica
10.00   Depart Bijelo Polje (from Hotel/Restaurant Dvor)
13.30   LUNCH BREAK
15.00   Visit to Cooperative Agro Eko Voce and Association Arijska Malina, Arije, Serbia

WITH A FOCUS ON

- Farmer organization into a cooperative and association
- Raspberry production and marketing channels
- Geographical Indication (GI)

17.15   HOTEL CHECK-IN
Hotel Požega
www.hotelpozega.com

18.30   DINNER AT THE HOTEL

DAY 2. Tuesday, 18 September

6.30    BREAKFAST AND CHECKOUT OF HOTEL
7.30    Depart hotel
11.00   Visit to ZZ Insieme, Bratunac, BiH
www.coop-insieme.com

WITH A FOCUS ON

- Farmer organization
- Production and marketing of berry jams and juices to Italy
- Packaging and labelling
- The importance of standards and organic certification

14.30   LUNCH BREAK IN TUZLA
DAY 3. Wednesday, 19 September

8.00 BREAKFAST AND CHECKOUT OF HOTEL

9.00 Depart hotel

10.00 Visit to cooperative ZZ Gračanka, Gračanica
   www.gracanka.ba
   WITH A FOCUS ON
   • Farmer organization
     (the cooperative has more than 1,000 members);
   • Production and marketing of fruit and vegetables
     (cucumbers, apples, plums etc.);
   • Discussion on BiH experience with cooperatives and
     associations;

12.30 LUNCH BREAK

17.00 HOTEL CHECK-IN
   Hotel Pahuljica, Vlašić
   (optional: swimming or nature walking)
   www.pahuljica.com

18.30 DINNER AT THE HOTEL
DAY 4. Thursday, 20 September

7.30  BREAKFAST AND CHECKOUT OF HOTEL

8.30  Depart hotel

10.00 Visit to Heko doo plant nursery in Kopčić Polje
       www.hhf.heko.ba

     WITH A FOCUS ON

     • Container seedlings of different types of berries and currants.
     • New berry varieties.

11.15 Visit to Heko doo storage and processing facility
        Bugojno
        www.hhf.heko.ba

     WITH A FOCUS ON

     • Storage and marketing of berries and mushrooms.

12.30 LUNCH AT MOTEL HEKO, BUGOJNO

16.00 Visit to Cooperative Bios, Visoko
       www.bios.ba

     WITH A FOCUS ON

     • Farmer organization.
     • Production of greenhouses and irrigation systems.
     • Production of seedlings.

17.45 HOTEL CHECK-IN
       Hotel Grand, Sarajevo
       www.hotelgrand.com

18.30 DINNER AT THE HOTEL
Friday, 21 September

7.30  BREAKFAST AND CHECKOUT OF HOTEL

8.30  Depart hotel

8.45  Visit to Berry Demonstration Plot at Butmir, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science, Sarajevo

WITH A FOCUS ON

• New berry varieties,
• Production technologies.

13.00  LUNCH

16.30  Arrive to Bijelo Polje

21.00  Arrive to Podgorica

Visit us again!
New berries
coming soon...
Hotels
Hotel Požega
Ulica Nikole Pašića 6, 31210 Požega, Serbia
www.hotelpozega.com

Hotel University Dorrah
Mitra Trifunovića Uce bb, Tuzla 75000, BiH
www.dorrah.ba

Hotel Pahuljica
Šišava 72286, BiH
www.pahuljica.com

Hotel Grand Sarajevo
Muhameda Ef. Pandže 7, Sarajevo 71000, BiH
www.hotelgrand.com

Participants
Mr Andrija Delić
Raspberry producer, Bijelo Polje

Mr Miroslav Došljak
Raspberry and fruit producer, Berane

Mr Pero Filipović
Raspberry producer, Bijelo Polje

Mr Sefer Hurić
Raspberry producer, Bijelo Polje

Ms Marijana Kljajić
Rural tourism and raspberry production, Berane

Mr Radoslav Mašković
Strawberry producer, Bijelo Polje

Mr Amar Muratović
Raspberry and fruit producer, Petnjica

Mr Marko Novović
Raspberry and vegetable producer, Andrijevica

Ms Suzana Rovčanin
Adviser, Secretariat for rural and sustainable development, Municipality of Bijelo Polje

Mr Besim Salković
Vegetable producer, Pokrajci

Ms Sanja Simonović Delević
Fruit and vegetable producer, Berane

Mr Vučeta Šebek
Blueberry and raspberry producer, Bijelo Polje

Mr Nebojša Veličkoivić
Extension Officer (Fruit production and beekeeping), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Podgorica

Mr Ivan Vuletić
Berry production and storage, Murino, Plav

Mr Kenan Zekić
Blackberry and raspberry producer, Bijelo Polje

Mr Vukoman Žujović
Raspberry producer, Bijelo Polje

Organizers
Lisa Paglietti
FAO, Economist
Lisa.Paglietti@fao.org

Stefania Manzo
FAO, Project Support Consultant
Stefania.Manzo@fao.org
+39 389 359 7926

Benjamin Torić
FAO, Consultant
btoric@gmail.com
+382 68 00 99 76