



Quality-Certified Training of Farmers on Organic Agriculture

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Validation Training in Cyprus

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Version

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List of Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations:

Term/Acronym/Abbreviation	Description

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1. Executive Summary

This document outlines the concept and the results of the Validation Seminar in Cyprus. It includes the structure and content of the validation seminar, the prior notification documents, details of speakers/ invitees, a brief description of the seminar as well as the programme of the event. This paper closes with recommendations and conclusions that derived from the open discussion and the questionnaires.

2. Introduction

2.1 Scope

This paper presents the documents that were produced for the purposes of the Validation Seminar in Cyprus and a brief description of the event.

2.2 Audience

This report is addressed to the partners of the Cerorganic project and for any other interested parties.

2.3 Validation training structure

In order to develop the structure of the Validation Seminar in Cyprus we first decided what the main aim/objective of the training was:

'To transfer knowledge and provide the organic farmers with the necessary information that will help them to solve problem that are facing in their farms'.

Second, we considered the main findings of the national workshop last year, about the needs in education on organic agriculture matters and thirdly, the knowledge that was given to the trainees from the Pilot Training of Trainers in Chania.

As result of the above records it was decided that the training structure will focalize on practical issues in the field in organic production.

2.4 List of actions that took place

Send invitations to organic olive cultivators	3/10/11
Deadline of registrations for farmers	19/10/11
Participants confirm participation via telephone	6/10/11-24/10/11
Translation of evaluation questionnaire	24/10/11
Validation seminar	25/10/11

Table 1 List of actions that took place

3. Participants

Twenty one organic olive farmers have participated in the Validation Training of Cyprus. The speakers of the Validation seminar were Mrs. Stella Lamprou, Mr Antonis Shimis, Graduate trainee of the training in Chania, and Mrs Nicoletta Michael, member of the Consortium team of the CerOrganic project.



Figure 1 The CerOrganic validation seminar in Cyprus

4. Program of Validation Training

4.1 *The content of the Validation Training*

Two months before the Validation Training the Graduated trainees from the Pilot Training of Trainers in Chania and the member of the Consortium team have decided that the main subjects of the training will be:

- Biological control of pest and diseases: A presentation regarding ways to control pest and diseases in an organic olive tree.
- EU legislation on organic production: A presentation regarding the principles and rules that should be applied and followed in organic production
- Logbook: A presentation regarding the organic farmer's obligation to keep records of every action that he makes in his field that is connected with the production of goods.

The trainers in order to develop their presentation used as foundation the knowledge that was gain from the Pilot Training of Trainers in Chania.

4.2 *Description of the validation training*

The validation seminar in Cyprus was held on the 25th of October, 2011 in the premises of the Department of Agriculture in Nicosia. The vertical training lasted one day and it was organized by the Department of Agriculture. The speakers were graduate trainees from the Pilot Training of Chania and one of them is also a member of the Consortium team of the CerOrganic project. The audience was organic olive cultivators invited by the Department.

The Validation training provided to the farmers with information regarding: the logbook of organic farmers, EU legislation regarding Organic Agriculture, Biological control of pest and diseases in olives trees and more specific the pest *Bactrocera oleae* (*Dacus oleae*), the CerOrganic project, the Organic Edunet website and the CerOrganic Mole platform.

The seminar has started with an opening speech from the Director of the Department of Agriculture, was followed by a presentation regarding the CerOrganic project and it closed with the open discussion and the collection of the evaluation questionnaires. The evaluation material was forwarded to the relevant partner (EFQUEL) for analysis. The results and analysis will be presented in project deliverable D4.5 (Evaluation Reports – User Country Trainings).

4.3 The Validation Training Program in English

Validation Training Program
“Organic cultivations of olives trees”
Department of Agriculture
Nicosia, 25th of October 2011

09:00-09:25	Arrival- Registration
09:25-09:30	Opening speech by the Director of the Department of Agriculture
09:30-10:00	Description of the lifelong learning program CerOrganic: Quality-Certified training of farmers on Organic Agriculture (Mrs. Nicoletta Michael, Agricultural Officer)
10:00-10:30	Resources of information on organic agriculture through the internet (CerOrganic Mole Platform, Organic Edunet) (Mrs. Nicoletta Michael, Agricultural Officer)
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:00	EU legislation on organic production- Log book (Mr. Antonis Shimis, Agricultural Officer)
12:00-13:00	Biological control of pest and diseases in olive trees (Mrs. Stella Lamprou, Agricultural Officer)
13:00-13:30	Open discussion

Table 2 Program of the validation seminar

4.4 Open discussion

During the open discussion farmers have stated that they are facing serious problems with the disposal of their products, especially the olive oil. It is difficult for them to ensure high prices as result they sell their oil at the same price with the conventional. In addition, they asked ways to make their presence stronger in the market. They were adviced to be organized into organizations of producers. The main aim of the organizations of producers is the disposal of the products of their members as well as the optimization of the cost of production and the stability of the prices.

Furthermore, thy asked the difference of the material of the Mole platform and the organic Edunet portal with the material that you can find after searching in Google. As response it was stated that is the quality of the material is ensured.

At the end the farmers have recommented that similar training should be organized in the future in various subjects that are mention in Section 6.1.1.

5. Teaching material

The material that was used for the seminar it was prepared by the speakers in the form of PowerPoint presentations (ppt). Hard copies were given to the farmers. The presentations have been uploaded into the relevant section ("VT Training in Cyprus") of the CerOrganic Web Platform (<http://cerorganic.moleportal.eu>).

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 Recommendations for the validation training

During the open discussion and through the questionnaires the below subjects were recommended for future trainings/seminars:

- Marketing: ways of disposal of the products in the market and how to make the farmers presence stronger in the market.
- Organic vegetables: cultivation techniques.
- Organic deciduous trees: cultivation techniques.

6.2 Recommendations for the Pilot Training of Trainers

The graduate trainees felt that the Pilot ToT training should have included more organic agriculture topics and practical issues in the field as well as more field trips. In addition, further sessions should have been included regarding ways to improve didactical skills in order the trainers to make their presentation more appealing and interesting to the audience.

6.3 Conclusions

The farmers expressed their satisfaction about the seminar. The presentations were easily understandable and the given information was clear. Moreover, it was mentioned that the seminar has provided them with useful knowledge to solve problems that are facing in their farms. In addition, more similar seminars/trainings should be organized in the future with subjects mentioned above in combination with field trips to organic farms. In conclusion, the overall objective for the validation training was accomplished.

The evaluation results from the five validation trainings and from the Pilot training of trainers in Chania will help to improve the CerOrganic training program and accomplish it purpose which is to be used as an exemplary training program.

Project Information

CerOrganic is a two year Leonardo da Vinci Multilateral Project financed by the European Commission that aims to develop and test a quality assurance procedure for the vocational education/training of agricultural advisors/trainers in Organic Agriculture, based on the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQARF).

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