

Ch.6 Promoting rural development

Key issues:

1. Limited agricultural production
2. Limited industrial activity and high unemployment
3. Unexploited potential for eco-tourism
4. Unused land resources
5. Low competitiveness of the agricultural sector
6. Significant gaps between EU and SEE agricultural policy
7. A general lack of infrastructure
8. Land fragmentation
9. Weak agriculture knowledge and innovation system

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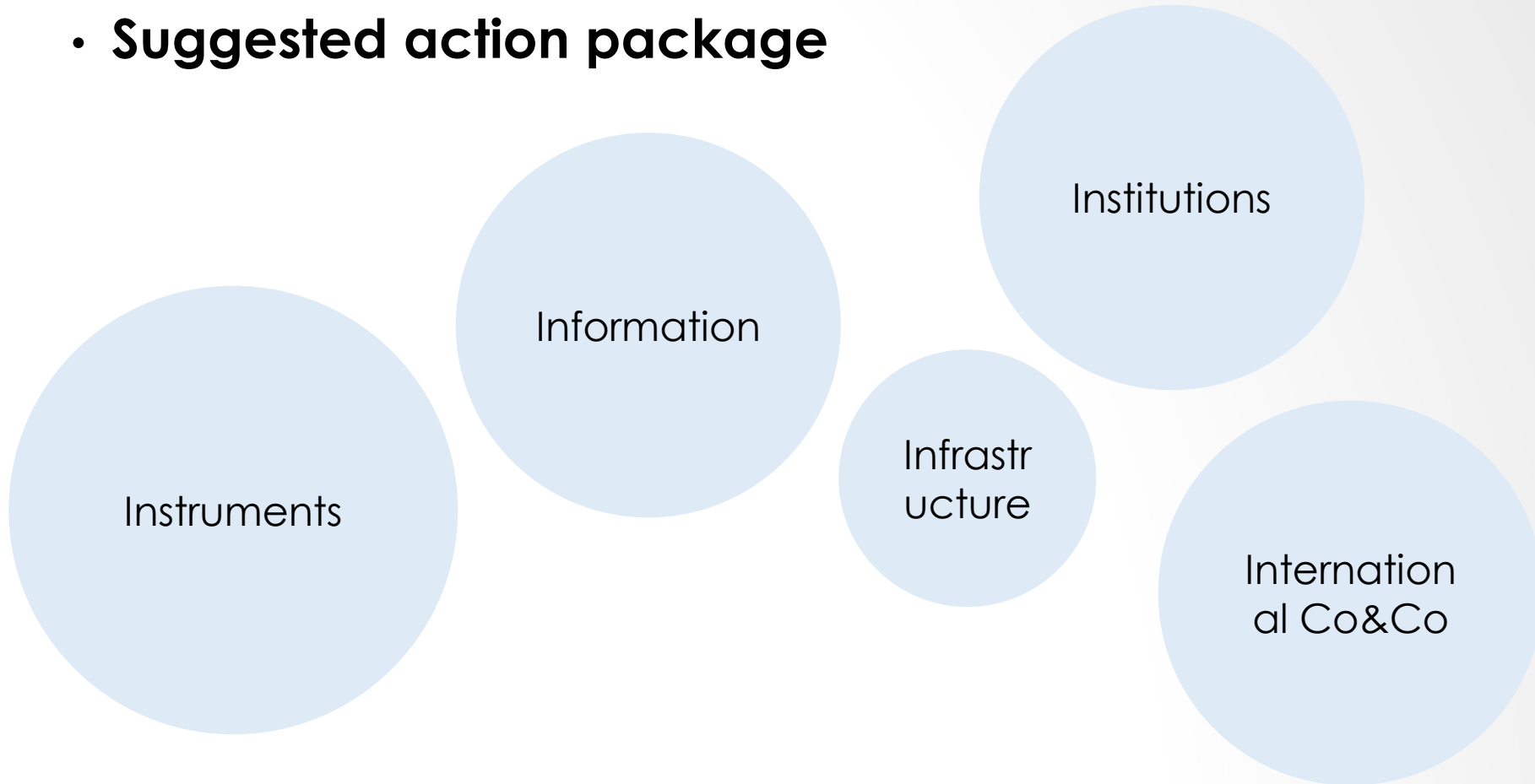
Suggested policy direction:

Promoting integrated rural development in the basin by exploiting the existing synergies between eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy production, at the advantage of local businesses and communities.



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- **Suggested action package**



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Possible actions (solutions):

1. Promoting organic production
2. Carry out participatory research to advance adaptation and resilience
3. Reducing the share of unused land in the basin, taking into account climate change and environmental value
4. Expanding irrigation, using high-efficiency technologies and water reuse
5. Promoting eco-tourism and other sustainable forms of tourism in the basin
6. Developing Farmer Based Organizations

Ch.6 - Promoting organic production

The potential for growth of the agriculture sector in the DRB lies on quality products rather than on large productions.

- Good practices embedded in traditional farming. Organic certification?
- Aligning with EU organic certification can create a competitive advantage for the countries and expand opportunities of trade of high-quality products
- An opportunity for cooperatives of small farmers
- Synergy with eco-touristic sector (traditional, local products)

Ch.6 - Carry out participatory research to advance adaptation and resilience

Innovative technologies can help farmers and other producers to overcome physical and environmental constraints, improve productivity and incomes, and help to adapt to changes. Currently, there is insufficient networking and cooperation between stakeholders (especially research and extension with farmers groups).

- Locally tailored technologies and innovation
- Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) a good vehicle to implement Participatory Action Research

Ch.6 - Reducing the share of unused land in the basin, taking into account climate change and environmental value

For the SEE region, FAO suggests that where natural constraints are not too much of a limiting factor (e.g. impervious mountains) unused permanent grassland could be used for livestock rearing, fruit production and forestry. High potential to improve quality of hay (farming, processing, storing)

- Value for environment and biodiversity of unused land. High Value Natural farming
- Opportunities for climate change mitigation (biofuels) and adaptation (new crops)?

Ch.6 - Expanding irrigation, using high-efficiency technologies and water reuse

Crop production in the DRB countries is highly vulnerable to weather conditions (e.g. effects of droughts in 2003, 2007 and 2012) and this situation is expected to worsen with climate change. Irrigated production is increasing (lower basin).

- High efficiency irrigation methods to be prioritized to avoid future competition on water
- In isolated farms: modern irrigation means reduced competition with domestic use on groundwater. Also, opportunity for water reuse?

Ch.6 - Promoting eco-tourism and other sustainable forms of tourism in the basin

The touristic offer in the DRB has potential to expand. Particularly promising are those nature-, sport-related.

Good examples of eco-tourism from within the basin and the surrounding regions.

- Local job creation
- Promotion of local products - including agricultural products - and renewable energies
- Opportunities for cooperation across the borders – locally
- Increased protection of wildlife and biodiversity

Ch.6 - Developing Farmer Based Organizations

There is a lack of agriculture cooperatives and significantly functional agricultural associations in the DRB. FBOs can be formal or non-formal (Farmer Field School, Farmer Business School, Local Action Group, Operational group, association, cooperative, clusters, etc)

- Mobilizing knowledge, enabling innovation
- Identification of opportunities (e.g. establishment of local labels)
- Improved horizontal and vertical integration of the agri-food sector
- At basin level: Nexus Platform?

Thank you!

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NEXUS AND BENEFITS OF TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION
IN THE DRINA RIVER BASIN”

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