



Celebrating World Food Day in Central and Eastern Europe

*** At the sub-regional level:**

Weeks before the WFD, FAOSEUR website featured a WF Day banner linked to the HQ WFD-related pages. To call the attention of as many people as possible, SEUR also promoted the establishment of similar links on all the AgroWeb portals of the CEE countries.

A reception was held in SEUR premises on the occasion of WFD, afternoon of 15 October. Around 80 guests, among them many diplomats, individuals from governmental and NGO partners from the agricultural sector of different countries in the region, attended the event. FAO Subregional Representative read out the message of the Director General of FAO. A presentation, given by Mr Demes, Information Management Specialist introduced the WAICENT programme for the guests.

***WFD Network**

Based on the proposal of Ms Mirjana Pavlovic, Public Health Institute, Subotica, Yugoslavia, a new web portal has been established that aims to collect and share the WFD related ideas and initiatives related to the organization of local events as well as to promote the World Food Day and TeleFood in the CEE and Southeast European countries.

The WFD Network aims to assist the organizers of national and local events. Besides the initiators, Mr Michal Demes, Information Management Specialist on behalf of FAO SEUR, takes active role in the WFD Network Committee. Requests have been reported from several CEE countries to establish national focal points.

*** At the national level:**

- **Hungary**

- WFD celebration was held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in, with support and participation of FAOSEUR staff on 16 October. The ceremony took place in the Theatre Room of the MoA building, where Mr Imre Nemeth, Minister of agriculture addressed te audience.
- National Broadcasting of Hungary, Radio Kossuth broadcasted an interview with Mr Fritz Rembold, Land Tenure and Rural Development Officer of SEUR in their regular programme, "Falurádió", (Village Radio) on 16th October.
- A film background on World Alimentation problems, with special attention to East Europe has also been on the channel TV-2, in the regular programme "Agrárvilág" (World of Agriculture) on the same day.
- On 19th October, the Kossuth Radio broadcasted a report " World Alimentation, Water and Climate" within their regular Programme on Environmental Questions "OXIGÉN".
- The NÉPSZAVA daily newspaper published an article of one column on 19th October in its weekend Supplement "Szép Szó" under the title "World Food Day".

- **Slovakia**

The national celebrations were held under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic, the Committee for Co-operation of the SR with FAO and Agroinstitute, Nitra.

Participants of the National Celebrations of the World Food Day 2002 were the representatives of the Office of the President of the Slovak Republic, Ministries of Environment, Health, Agriculture, state, public administration, Mayor of the town Nitra, representatives of the water-management institutions, water-management secondary school, Slovak Agricultural and Food Chamber, academical and scientific-research basis, Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences, research institutes of the water-management, irrigation, food-processing, soil science, plant and animal production, strategy and economy, Slovak Agricultural University, education, information institutions, press, Association of Agricultural Co-operatives and Trade Companies, representatives of producers of mineral waters, food- processing -baking and pastry, representatives of production and trade companies in the field of irrigation, water-management equipments, artists, students from University and others, the total number of 130 participants.

Beside the main event several side events were also held:

- Press Conference aimed at the theme of the World Food Day 2002 - Water: Source of Food Security with the participation of journalists, Slovak Television and TA 3 Television
- Advertising and Information Campaign for public was held in ali the important daily newspapers, Slovak Radio and Slovak Television
- Exhibition and presentation of organizations and companies (donors of event)
- Exhibition of publications, scientific, technical and popular literature, leaflets and promotion documents

- Exhibition of students' works at the Secondary Water Management School in Piest'any (including of the model of functioning water-mill at the stage)
- Exhibition of equipments, machines for water management
- Exhibition and degustation of Slovak mineral waters, soft drinks, beer, local baking, pastry specialities
- Advertising Campaign "Food from domestic production" aimed at support of sale of domestic agro-food production in the Slovak Television, press, hyper- and supermarket in co-ordination of the Independent Agro-Food Marketing Department
- FAO Information -Promotion materials and the releasing of the message of the FAO Director-General in the Slovak language

Information, *Photogallery and course of the celebrations provided at the web page:* <http://www.mpsr.sk/>

Local event:

WFD celebration has been organized by the NitraNet NGO, Nitra, in cooperation with the local municipality, and the local horticulturists association.

Besides about 40 kindergarten children, several local farmers and inhabitants, guests from the "Lipka" eco-house from Brno, Czech Republic also attended the celebration.

The local press and TV gave publicity to the event.

• **Armenia**

The Ministry of Agriculture organized World Food Day celebration.

Besides the official event, AgroWeb Caucasus NGO assisted in the organization of World Food Day 2002 Sculpture Exhibition in cooperation with School N9, the Art School of Echmiatsin, and Youth and Children Programs Working Group.

• **Yugoslavia**

Within the "Month of Healthy Nutrition Promotion-October 2002" several events have been organized in the North Backa Region of Yugoslavia. The final event, a World Food Day and World Heart Day Celebration, and the "IV Festival of Healthy Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion" was held on 8 November in Subotica.

The events were organized by the Public Health Institute, and sponsored by the Municipality of Subotica.

- **Romania**

For more information about WFD celebration in Romania, please see the Ministry of Agriculture of Romania ["ZIUA MONDIALA FAO"](#) page.