

SERBIA

SAFEGUARDING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR
THROUGH DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MEASURES

A CADRI PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATION

The CaDRiPartnership
Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative



"We needed to shift the focus from being reactive to becoming proactive to work in the peaceful time on prevention. We definitely needed the international partners' experience and knowledge about how the Action Plan should work in practice and needed it tailor-made for Serbia."

- Sandra NEDELJKOVIC

Deputy Director
National Disaster Risk Management Program
Public Investment Management Office

CATASTROPHIC FLOODS IN SERBIA TRIGGER ACUTE AWARENESS OF THE COUNTRY'S DISASTER RISK

The 2014 floods in Serbia had catastrophic impact on the welfare of people and the economy, with damages reaching a price tag of 1.7 billion Euros. The impact of these destructive floods created an acute awareness of just how important it is to take action to reduce risks and to prepare for situations when risks cannot be avoided; well before they turn into disasters.

With this awareness in mind, the Government of the Republic of Serbia initiated a National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Programme in December 2014. The Programme outlined the broad lines of action necessary to build Serbia's capacity to better prevent, predict, prepare for and respond to disasters.





THE CADRI PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT IN SERBIA

In its effort to develop an integrated and comprehensive implementation plan for the National DRM Programme, the Government benefited from technical assistance from the CADRI Partners throughout 2015 and 2016. As a result, in March 2017, the Government validated an Action Plan for the Implementation of the National DRM Programme (2016-2020), the main national instrument supporting the country to attain Sendai Framework targets at a national level.

PROTECTING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR FROM FUTURE DISASTER IMPACT

Accounting for 9 percent of the country's GDP, agriculture was prioritized as the most important sector for the economy. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management was actively engaged in a series of technical training and planning workshops supported by the CADRI Partnership, through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to define DRM priorities for the agriculture sector. Key priorities identified ranged from undertaking vulnerability and risk mapping of floods and forest fires; setting up a database on the movement of animals; mapping and analysis of animal disease risks; and setting up a database for food safety.

In 2017, with support from FAO, the central government, local authorities and agriculture extension services partnered to revise the disaster damage and loss assessment methodology for the agriculture sector. Existing procedures were based on laws dating back to the 1980s. The update of the methodology would therefore allow for a faster assessment of the needs of the affected population, and ultimately for more accurate recovery interventions.

"CADRI was able to bring all the experts we needed to assist the government to develop a National Action Plan on how to prevent any future disasters and how to prepare."

- Irena Vojackova SOLLORANO
UN Resident Coordinator



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