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“Arable Land in Pancevo Healthy” p. 19

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Arable Land in Pancevo Proved Healthy

When Japanese experts arrived in 2014, and began with examination of arable land in Pancevo with modern equipment, people were eager to learn about the quality of soil in south-Banat area. Today, Professor Takeshi Nakano, one of the coordinators of the project “Capacity Building for Analysis and Reduction Measures of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Serbia”, stated for our paper that the first request was to examine the safety of agricultural crops. After sampling soil in 29 locations, analysis showed that arable land here was in good condition. It is proved by low concentration of pollutants in this area, which further means that the population here is safe.

“The most important information for the public is that the safety of agricultural crops has been established. However, there was lot of work, and there will be, since it was noticed that the pesticides were used in inappropriate way and that the waste was disposed in inadequate places. We were working on this issue through this project by educating the farmers,” Prof. Takeshi Nakano from the University of Osaka and the coordinator of this project, said for “Politika”.

It is well-known that agriculture in Pancevo is considered as strategic resource and the base for development of the city. Experts from Japan, the country which is the world’s leader in environment protection, arrived in Pancevo upon the invitation of the city of Pancevo, after the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection and the leading experts from the Faculty of Chemistry in Belgrade assessed that this soil was to be examined. Project has been implemented and it is in the final phase thanks to the agreement, signed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Association for environment improvement from Hyogo, the City of Pancevo and Faculty of Chemistry in Belgrade.

“Monitoring of arable land and soil at communal landfills was conducted, as well as analysis of groundwater. The results showed that the condition of soil is not as bad as we were expecting. Pesticides are used, as well as other pollutants. On the other hand, the samples of groundwater showed the presence of fluorine compounds, which is actually the result of fire. Analysis was conducted at our Faculty by using the latest instrument, which enables gas chromatography in two dimensions. With this instrument we could identify a large number of components and examine the sample in details”, Vladimir Beskoski, Professor at Faculty of Chemistry in Belgrade and the coordinator of the project in Serbia, explained.

All experts, involved in this governmental project, emphasize that for four years Serbian and Japanese researchers have been creating connections, exchanging information, knowledge and technology with

Serbian farmers, students and employees at Pancevo municipality office, in charge of environment protection.

“We were lucky that Japan, as one of the most developed countries in the world and a leader in environment protection, invested energy, time, money and above all people who came to Serbia to convey their experiences” the Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry, Prof. Dr. Ivan Grzetic stated.

Project “Capacity Building for Analysis and Reduction Measures of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Serbia” is in its final phase, and all the participants already mention joint expectations to proceed with this research of Serbian and Japanese experts, which is of great importance for Serbia.

At the final conference they stressed that the analysis of environment was necessary, since it was changeable and human impact was tremendous. According to the experts, it is essential to follow, whether there was exposure and risk for the population, which substances have to be monitored carefully and to take all the necessary measures and technology to deal with the pollutants when the problem emerges.

“We are already planning to continue our cooperation in three directions. Firstly, we plan to monitor soil and groundwater in the area of “Petrohemija”. Secondly, we plan to examine dangerous substances around landfills. And thirdly, we are also interested in the nature park Ponjavica. We want to continue working and disseminate our experiences,” Professor Takeshi Nakano concluded.