

Report

International training course

Sustainable Agriculture in Wetlands

The international training course on Sustainable Agriculture in Wetlands was held from 22 till 27 September 2019 in the Czech Republic in support of the implementation of the Resolution XIII.19 – Sustainable Agriculture in Wetlands, adopted by the COP13 of the Ramsar Convention the previous year.

The training course was attended by eight participants from five countries of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (Slovak Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and Romania) and one representative from the Netherlands. Two participants from Ukraine and two from the Czech Republic cancelled their participation at the last minute (due to illness, personal reasons or work duties). The course was convened in two locations – the town of Třeboň in South Bohemia and at the permaculture farm Jagava located at Veselice near the town of Mladá Boleslav in Central Bohemia

The course included indoor lectures, field visits, visit to the aquatic and wetland plant collection at the Institute of Botany in Třeboň and a practical workshop on the use of aquatic plants. The lectures and field visits addressed the following topics: principles and methods of evaluating sustainable land use based on efficient dissipation of solar energy, and water and matter flows; the role of wetlands in agricultural landscape and particularly in climate change mitigation.

Lectures:

- Principles of sustainable land use (*Martina Eiseltová*)
- Role of wetlands and vegetation in water cycling and climate (*Jan Pokorný*)
- Plants suitable for cultivation in or sustainable harvesting from temperate wetlands (*Jan Květ*)
- Sustainable management of floodplains, ecosystem services (*David Pithart*)
- History of fishpond development and management (*Jan Pokorný*)
- Vegetated drainage ditches and constructed wetlands for removal of agricultural diffuse pollution (*Jan Vymazal*)

Field excursions included visits to the Třeboň fishponds Ramsar site (sustainable fishpond management discussed); the River Lužnice floodplain (Czech and Austrian extensively grazed sites were visited); the 50-ha permaculture farm; ornithological park Josefovské meadows – a restored floodplain meadow managed by the Czech Ornithological Society with the aim to combine waterfowl conservation and sustainable agricultural management. The practical workshop on the use of wetland plants - cattail weaving.

All course participants had a brief presentation (10-15 mins) of their work followed by a discussion.

At the end the course participants received a certificate of attendance.

Course organisers: Libuše Vlasáková a Martina Eiseltová

Lecturers: Martina Eiseltová (Crop Research Institute, Prague), Jan Pokorný (Enki), David Pithart (Beleco), Jan Květ (Czech Globe), Jan Vymazal (Czech University of Life Sciences)

Field trips guides: Jan Pokorný (Enki), David Pithart (Beleco), Axel Schmidt (Engineering company for biology and ecology), Tomáš Franěk (Permafarma Jagava), Břeněk Michálek (Czech Society for Ornithology), Jana Navrátilová (Institute of Botany, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)

Workshop on cattail weaving: Iveta Dandová

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Jan Pokorný is explaining the role of vegetation in water cycling and climate
(photo Martina Eiseltová)



Jan Květ during his lecture (photo Libuše Vlasáková)



Visit to the collection of aquatic and wetland plants in Institute of Botany

(photo Libuše Vlasáková)



Practical workshop of cattail weaving

(photo Libuše Vlasáková)



Presentations of participants

(photo Libuše Vlasáková)



Field excursion to Bird park Josefov meadows was guided by Břeněk Michálek from the Czech Society for Ornithology (in the middle) *(photo Libuše Vlasáková)*



Model of flood in natural landscape and industrial landscape

(photo Libuše Vlasáková)



Axel Schmidt (Engineering company for biology and ecology) is explaining principles of management in Austrian part of River Lužnice floodplain

(photo Libuše Vlasáková)



David Pithart (Beleco) is explaining principles of management in the Czech part of River Lužnice floodplain (*photo Libuše Vlasáková*)



All participants, two lecturers and two organisers together (*photo David Pithart*)