

## table of contents...

<b>Updates &amp; reports</b>	
Organic twinning in Poland	1
<b>Country focus</b>	
Organic growth in Peru	3
<b>Certification &amp; accreditation</b>	
Expanded scope of the Multilateral Agreement	7
Certification transference: problems and solutions	13
<b>Updates &amp; reports</b>	
Andalusian plan for organic farming	17
European Action Plan internet consultation	19
<b>Comment &amp; opinion</b>	
Organic Plus?	20
<b>Book review</b>	
New publication provides facts on genetic engineering	21

## Organic twinning in Poland

*The EU PHARE twinning programme provides funding for activities targeted at the European pre-accession countries. These activities focus on supporting pre-accession countries to align their systems (legislation and policies) to EU standards. One project concerned with organic farming started in Poland in autumn 2002.*

Two years ago an EU-sponsored PHARE twinning programme in Poland named 'organic farming' was put up for tender. In October 2001, delegations from six countries (Denmark, Great Britain, Greece, Germany, Austria and Italy) gathered at the EU office in Warsaw to present their ideas on implementing the programme to Polish and EU Commission officials. The Italian delegation, which was composed of Turin Province international relation official Stefano Cocchi (project leader), Jolanta Ciesielska (Pre Accession Assistant, project manager) and Antonio Compagnoni (representing AIAB and ICEA, coordinating the private sector EU experts), won the bid.

The project espoused two overall objectives divided into eight main

components (see box below).

Project activities started in autumn 2002 and are due to end in spring 2004. Given that Poland is due to join the EU in May 2004, the main goal of the first objective is to support the recognition of Polish organic legislation by the European Commission. Its aim is to achieve this, without any disruption, by the time Poland has to implement EU regulations on organic farming.

There are over 3000 organic farmers in Poland. What is at stake is the recognition of their certification status *vis-à-vis* the EU regulation without having to be subjected to a conversion period and/or a delay in recognition for the EU market, which would disrupt supply chains and farmers' livelihoods.

EU experts in the project team are

### **Objective 1: Strengthening Government administration as regards supervision and control of organic farming**

COMPONENT 1: *Development of regulation and policy measures*

COMPONENT 2: *Development of control capabilities by public authorities, including setting criteria and procedures for the recognition of certifying bodies as well as support for obtaining third country equivalency*

COMPONENT 3: *Development of surveillance and supervision capabilities by public authorities*

COMPONENT 4: *Improvement of analytical control capabilities*

### **Objective 2: Dissemination of the relevant knowledge about organic farming to the farmers and consumers**

COMPONENT 6: *Development of extension service model*

COMPONENT 7: *Implementation of training and extension activities*

COMPONENT 8: *Development of promotion activities*