



Salicin - Letter of Intent

Herewith the participants named below declare their intention to realize a transnational cooperative project on the basis of the ELER-VO and its subunit LEADER.

The key objective of this declaration is to initialize a cooperation agreement between LEADER-regions by **February 28th, 2009** on the initiative of the participants signed below.

Working title:

“Transnational introduction, reproduction, cultivation, processing and marketing of willows rich in salicin”

Topics:

- a) The exchange of information concerning the participating LEADER-regions with regard to their rural and economical premises
- b) The organisation of presentations in the respective LEADER-regions demonstrating the natural, economic and rural capabilities necessary for the implementation of the project
- c) The formulation and establishment of common structures for economically sustainable and transnational introduction, reproduction, cultivation, processing and marketing of willows rich in salicin
- d) Gaining experience and knowledge concerning the introduction, reproduction, cultivation, processing and marketing of willows rich in salicin in terms of:
 - Corporate Identity
 - Scientific attendance
 - Techniques/ Technology
 - added value in respective regions
 - Economy of added value and enterprises
 - Public relations
 - Specific training
 - End products

Project objectives and description:

The analgesic abilities of salicin and the fact that it can be obtained from willow bark has been known for centuries. After three years of intensive scientific research at the Humboldt-University Berlin, stocks of seedlings rich in salicin have been obtained along with first experiences regarding cultivation, reproduction, care and harvest of willows rich in salicin.

The transnational cooperative project's objective is to create a framework for an economically sustainable cultivation, processing and marketing of salicin obtained from willow bark. The project envisages Europe-wide cultivation and expanded production as sources of alternative income, a chance for diversification of enterprises and expedient use of land. Furthermore, efficient processing and marketing structures are to be established.

Especially for enterprises utilizing wood as fuel the cultivation of willows rich in salicin can be a surplus.

The benefits of value enhancement and know-how shall be mutually applied in the involved LEADER-regions to further encourage sustainable rural development.

This cooperation is to be implemented in accordance with the statutory European and national guidelines with special focus on LEADER and ELER-VO.

Ort, Datum

Regionaler Akteur

Name

Unterschrift