



Successful and unsuccessful stories in restoring despoiled drylands in Eastern Europe

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In many countries from Eastern Europe degradation is so severe that it has lead to the reduction of the soil's capability to support human communities and to desertification. The practice of an intensive agriculture without implementing water and soil management systems suitable for the local and regional climate, together with the losses of forest areas and an increase frequency of droughts are the main responsible causes for the land degradation which reach, in some areas, very severe forms. Another very important factor is the mentality of the local population, especially in some countries as Romania. Due to particularly strong sense of land ownership, activities of restoring despoiled drylands faced difficulties in being implemented.

This paper will present some successful and unsuccessful stories in restoring despoiled drylands in Eastern Europe, situations when land ownerships were convinced about the importance of greening the environment.