



## **Bio-physical and specific criteria for identifying natural significant constraints to agriculture in Croatia**

M. Perčec Tadić (1), V. Vučetić (1), A. Bajić (1), S. Ivatek-Šahdan (1), B. Krulić (2), B. Matjačić (1), and D. Počakal (1)

(1) Meteorological and Hydrological Service, Grič 3, HR-10 000 Zagreb, Croatia (melita.percec.tadic@cirus.dhz.hr), (2) Mokrička 38, Ključ Brdovečki, HR-10292 Šenkovec

In the European Union, less-favoured area (LFA) for agriculture is an area with natural handicaps (lack of water, unfavourable climate, short crop season and tendencies of depopulation), or that is mountainous or hilly, as defined by its altitude and slope.

LFAs benefit from area and headage compensatory allowances, and from a number of payments for structural adjustment, so it is a National governments obligation and interest to designate their respective LFAs.

Croatia, as a new member of the European Union, prepared detailed analysis of orographic features, climatic conditions, soil characteristics and specific handicaps that induce negative affects to agricultural and rural development.

Bio-physical climatic constraints and specific handicaps are analyzed and presented here in details. Length of growing season defined by low air temperature and heat stress defined by high air temperature have been selected climatic parameters affecting the agriculture. The specific constraints in Croatia included strong wind and fire danger on the coast and hail inland.

This work was initiated and lead by the Ministry of Agriculture while the analysis presented here was conducted in Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia.