

“OUR VILLAGE”

Project



**Serbian village is disappearing.
Residents are moving away to cities or
other countries seeking a better life.**

Out of **4,700** villages in Serbia
1,200 will disappear in the next **15** years

Over **1,000** villages have fewer than
100 inhabitants

In **200** villages there are no residents younger
than **20** years old

400 villages have no local shop,
230 villages have no school



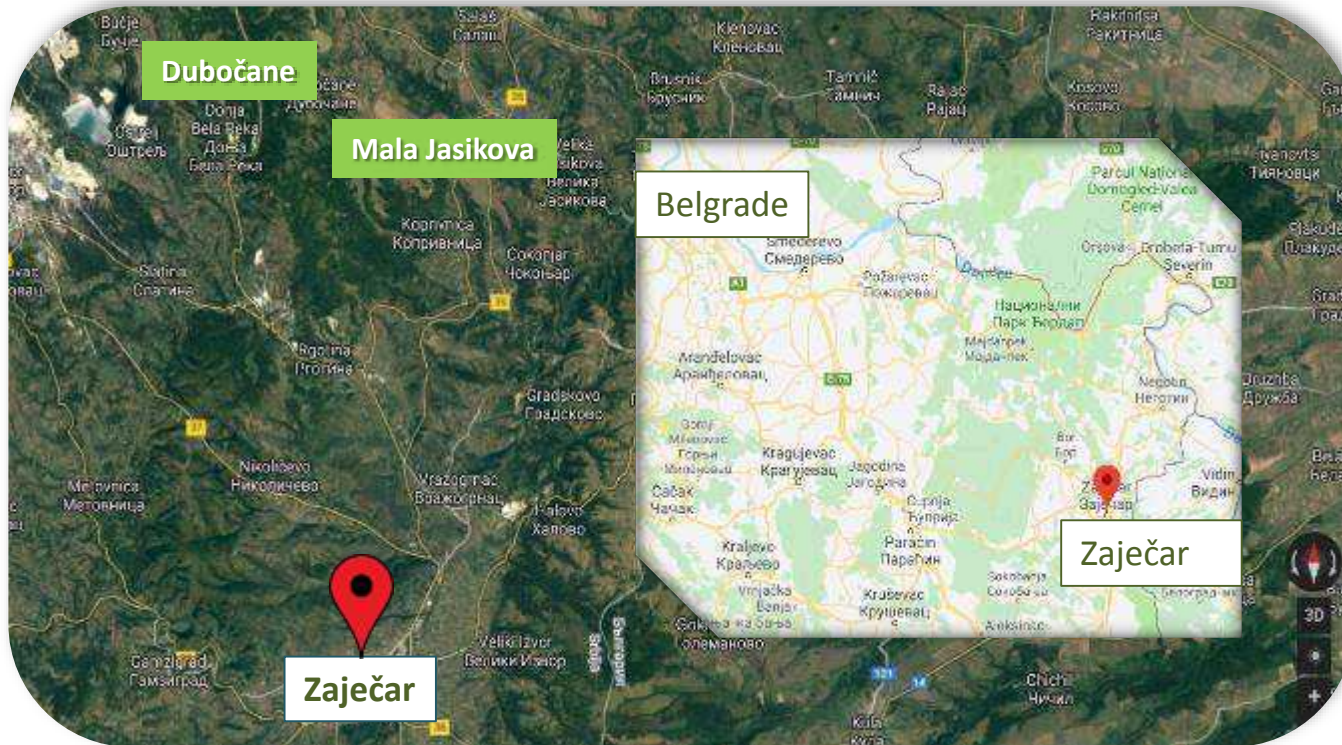
Agriculture provides a great opportunity for the improvement of Serbian economy and Serbian villages, but only if it is modern, efficient and based on the newest technology.

That is why Delta Holding launched the project *Our Village* with the idea to give an example of how well people in villages can live.



| CROP | DELTA AGRAR (t/ha) | Average in Serbia (t/ha) |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Wheat | 9 | 4 |
| Corn | 13.2 | 3.9 |
| Sugar beet | 88 | 46 |
| Soy | 5.1 | 1.8 |

The chosen villages are Dubočane and Mala Jasikova in the municipality of Zaječar.



- The underdeveloped region of eastern Serbia
- The majority of the population is engaged in agriculture
- There are still young people and families with children left in the village
- The residents have shown a will to learn, change their habits and way of life





Mala Jasikova

235 residents • They are predominantly engaged in fruit growing
Around **50** hectares under orchards • Around **800** hectares of arable land



Dubočane

365 residents • They are predominantly engaged in livestock breeding
Around **400** dairy cows/**300** sheep • Around **800** hectares of arable land

Improvement of agricultural production is necessary for the revival of villages.

Enriching social and cultural life is important for making the village more appealing to current and future residents.



The basis of modern agriculture is knowledge. That is why the project *Our Village* began with the education of the locals on the modern agricultural production.

34 professional lectures have been held

4 visits to Delta's farms have been organized

An individual development plan was made for every household

Delta's team visits the residents' estates on a weekly basis, gives expert advice, monitors and controls the process of agricultural production



Delta's experts and partner organizations have identified the weaknesses of the current agricultural production in the villages.

Fruit growing

- Uncertified seedlings susceptible to diseases
- Lack of modern knowledge (on cutting, conserving, protecting plants)
- Bad irrigation systems
- Unfenced orchards
- Lack of modern mechanization

Livestock breeding

- Inappropriate facilities for animals
- Animals without pedigree
- Bad animal nutrition
- Old agricultural machinery
- Weak cooperation with veterinarians

Common challenges

- Households don't keep accurate records of manufactured products, production costs and income
- High purchase prices
- Product placement



Delta Agrar will continue to monitor and improve the agricultural production in Dubočane and Mala Jasikova.



Additional lectures and visits to farms and fairs will be organized
Expert advice will follow the realization of individual production plans


The project *Our Village*, in addition to knowledge, also provides financing of the investments necessary for the agricultural production improvement.

Erste Bank joined as a partner by providing lines of credit for the residents of Dubočane and Mala Jasikova

For the locals these loans are interest-free, since Delta Agrar will pay off the amount of interest rate

The total amount of current loans equals **200,000 EUR**

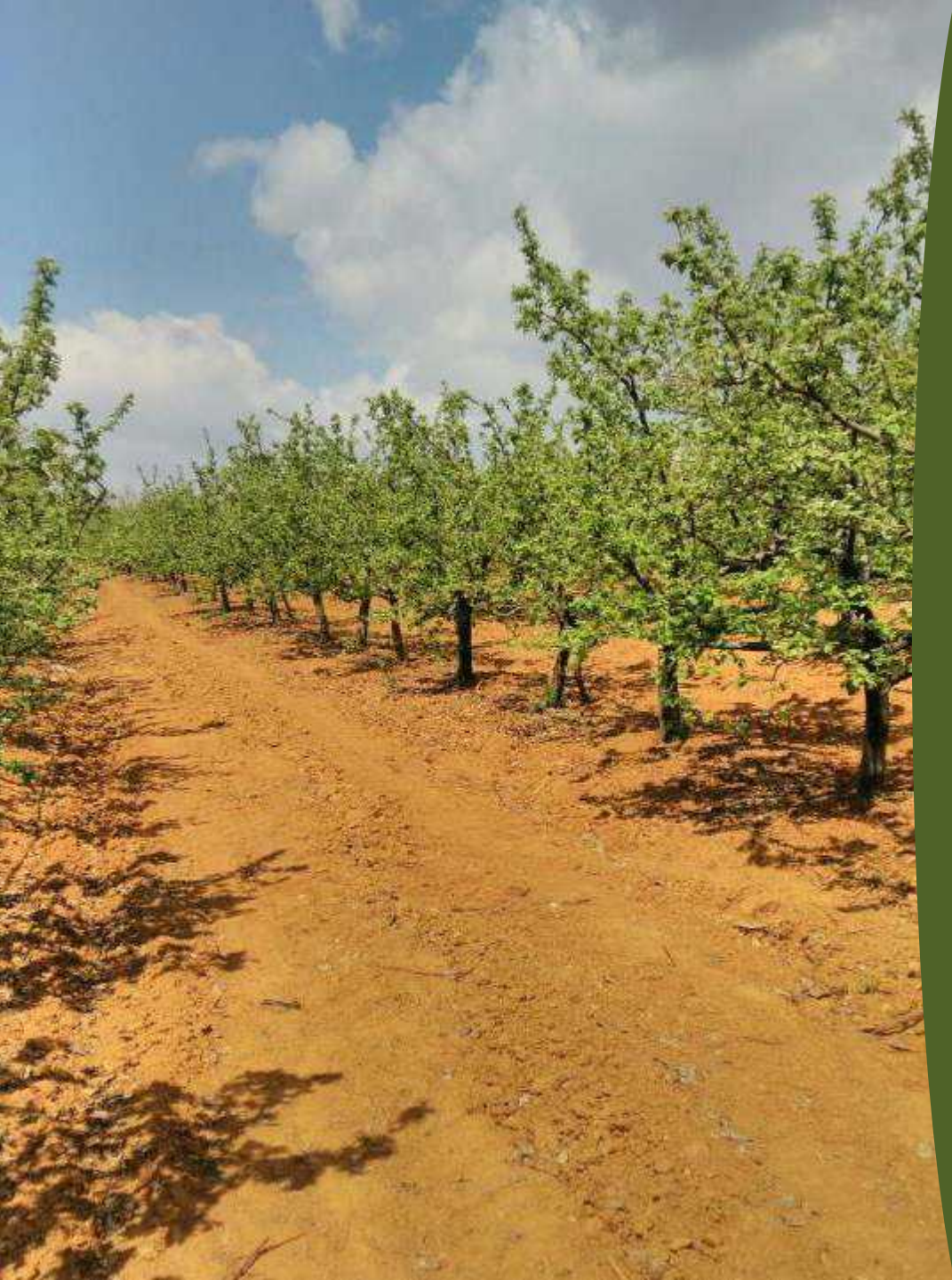


A photograph of a dormant orchard with rows of bare trees in a field. The trees are without leaves, and the ground is covered with fallen leaves and soil. The background shows a clear sky and a distant horizon.

The loans will enable the producers to increase their yields and will make their production more profitable.

The financing will be used for:

- Renovation and construction of facilities for livestock
- Purchase of higher-quality animals
- Expansion of orchards
- Fencing orchards and pest control
- Building irrigation systems



The biggest problem the locals are faced with is product placement. That is why Delta Agrar has committed to buy all products produced by the locals of Mala Jasikova and Dubočane.

The purchase of agricultural products is guaranteed


The locals may offer their products to other buyers if they get a better price

They will have an assistance in the procurement of planting materials, plant protection products and raw material

A decent wage is not a sufficient condition to prevent the migration of the population. The villagers deserve a normal life which includes cultural and entertainment events, as well as proper conditions for getting education and medical treatment. These aspects are part of the third phase of the project *Our Village*.

- Rooms for lectures and gathering of young people have been renovated
- A theater performance was held in the village for the first time since the Cultural centers were built
- The children enjoyed the performance and welcomed Santa Clause who brought them presents
- An Easter egg workshop was held
- A folklore section was organized in both villages



A photograph of a classroom. The walls are painted green and are covered with various children's drawings and posters. One prominent poster features a tree with colorful heart-shaped leaves and the text 'НАША ЛЮБИМАЯ ШКОЛА' (Our beloved school) and 'СРЕДНО ШКОЛА' (Middle school). There are several wooden desks with light blue tops and metal frames arranged in rows. A window on the right side of the room has a white frame and is decorated with colorful paper cutouts. A potted plant sits on the windowsill. The floor is made of dark wood or laminate.

In the upcoming period we will help to revive educational, cultural and social life in these villages.

We will renovate the schools in both villages. The students will be welcomed into significantly improved facilities as early as on September 1

We will organize movie nights and theater plays

We will create a space for children's playroom and gathering of adults

The goal of the project *Our Village* is to economically empower two villages in the municipality of Zaječar and then to spread to other regions of Serbia.

The broader social goal is to stop migrations from villages to cities by strengthening the villages and to encourage migrations in the opposite direction.



Together we are stronger.

We are lucky to have encountered great support since the very beginning of *Our Village* and that the number of people who share our vision and want to join the project is growing by day. If you share our ideas about the future of the Serbian village **you are welcome to join our team!**





www.deltaholding.rs