

FARMING SYSTEM IN ALBANIA

PhD candidate Gazmend Meço
Agriculture University of Tirana, Albania
ALBANIA

ABSTRACT

During the economic transition the agricultural sector of Albania has changed significantly. This process continues parallel with global trends of periods of relative consolidation. The diversity of farm types is increasing in terms of both their production structure and production organization. Even though the farms are still small in terms of the average size, there is an increasing tendency of fallow land, due to emigration and migration of the rural population. This is mainly due to traditions, because households composed of several families use greater parts of farm land for subsistence. Farm size and fragmentation - Albania has a very large number of farms per unit surface area compared to other countries in the EU. The size variation differs according to regions: higher in Western and South-Eastern Albania - in Fier 1.64 ha/farm; in Korçë 1.48 and smaller in Northern and North-Eastern regions - in Kukës 0.62 ha/farm. According to official statistical data the size of farm plots increased from 0.20 ha plots in 2000 to 0.26 ha in 2011; which is equal to nearly 30% in a decade. But the total average size of field plots, in general is still too small to justify the intensification of production by replacing hands with machines. The aim of this study is to give a screenshot of the actual situation of farming system in Albania. To fulfil this objective, we have taken into consideration some of the major areas of Albania, Fieri, Lushnja, Berat, Korce and Kukës. A descriptive analysis has been carried out to analyse these areas.

Keywords: Albania, farming system, transition, agriculture sector.