

Land abandonment in Albania

Irfan Tarelli

Ministry of Agriculture ,Tirana, Albania

Fatbardh Sallaku,

Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania

GENERAL DATA

- Total area 28 748 km²
 - Population 2.8 million residents
(about 1 million of emigrants)
 - Rural population 46.5%
 - Agriculture share in GDP 17,5%
 - 55 % of the employed people engaged in agriculture
 - The agricultural land fund 24% of the territory
 - The rest includes:
 - forest, meadows and pastures;
 - unproductive land, urban land, waterways etc.
-

Agricultural land

- Agricultural land 695,500 ha
(arable plants, orchards, vineyards and olive groves)
 - lowland 303,000 ha
 - hilly area 239,000 ha
 - mountainous areas 153,000 ha
- Based on soil fertility, ag. land is divided in 10 classes
 - Classes 1- 4 occupy nearly 40%
- Salty soils 12,876 ha
- Salinity magnesium soils 12,500 ha
- Acid soils 74,341 ha
 - of which, more acidic (pH 4-5) 18,300 ha
- Soil erosion is very present

Farm and crop structure

- Ag. land privately owned 561,000 ha or 80%
- No of agricultural farms 353,341 (in 2011)
- Average farm size 1,26 ha
- Parcel size 0,27 ha
- Average no of parcels/farm 4.7
- Utilized Agricultural Area 485,000 ha
- UAA, % of total agricultural land 70
- Cropping pattern:
 - arable crops 409,000 ha
 - fruit trees 18,000 ha
 - olive trees 46,000 ha
 - vineyards 10,700 ha
 - citrus 800 ha

The uncultivated/abandoned private land

- About 10% of the total area
 - Main reasons:
 - Migration of rural population;
 - Small farm size and high level of land fragmentation;
 - Poor irrigation and drainage systems;
 - High production costs;
 - High prices of ag. inputs;
 - A small percentage of farmers receive subsidies by government;
 - Land market and leasing not very developed.
-

The uncultivated / abandoned state land

The state land fund: 134 000 ha (or 20%)

- About 26,000 ha is used:
 - for physical compensation of old owners,
 - by agricultural research institutions,
 - for leasing:
 - About 108,000 ha:
 - refused to be privatised by the rural families;
 - gained by conversion of pasture and forest areas;
 - lower fertility,
 - in distance from inhabited areas;
 - without irrigation and drainage infrastructure;
 - less accessible by roads;
-

The uncultivated/abandoned state land

- Small and fragmented parcels in sloped terrains, **but** ¼ of are in blocks of more than 10 ha;
 - They are under administration of local government units
 - leasing to farmers
 - A valuable asset for cultivation of:
 - fruit trees & vineyards,
 - medicinal and aromatic plants
 - Conversion back to pasture and forest
-

Some measures to reduce land abandonment

- National programs of olive and nuts trees planting
 - farmers are eligible to subsidies provided by the National Paying Agency
 - Investments in irrigation, drainage and flood protection infrastructure
 - Ownership clearance and complete with land titles all eligible family farmers
 - Reimbursement of VAT for ag. inputs used by farmers
-

Thank you very much!
