

Technology transfer and organization of producers in Arboriculture

On 26 November was held in Tirana a national seminar entitled "Fruit producers, major players in the performance of branches."

It was organized by ADAD, a young producer organization focused on the tree development, MADA, Mountain Area Development Agency and FERT an organization of cooperation after French professional organizations operating for over 10 years in Albania with the support of the French Embassy in Tirana.



The seminar was an assessment and communication of the "Initiatives Mountain" led since 2003 by FERT and MADA and its objectives on the one hand to present the results obtained in arboriculture and to identify new issues and define priorities and modalities of action of a possible new phase.

It gathered a few hundred participants, producers, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and its bodies, bilateral cooperation agencies and partners of this program.

Beyond the action taken (exchanges, training, testing, introduction of rootstocks, varieties, ...), major two lessons were identified during interventions

- Significant results in the hundred members of ADAD from 3 regions of Kukes, Dibra and Korça, both among nurserymen (enlargement of the range and development of production) than among tree growers (mastery of new techniques for conducting orchards, increased quality and productivity, organization first nuclear producers around office supplies, counseling, storage, processing, ...)
- A low impact on the regional level, only 5% of orchards planted thanks to state subsidies to meet these improvements and on the eve of the entry of Albania in the European Union, only 1 % Of apple orchards is organized and conducted in ways competitive in terms of quality and profitability, further technical advice and support investment is insufficient and inadequate, and finally, the endorsement is dimensioned and incapable of absorb the next tripling of production,



In conclusion, three main recommendations made by ADAD were discussed: developing tools and devices financial support to investment, ADAD involvement in the definition of the specifications of parcels eligible for state subsidies and ADAD contribution in accompanying actions, advice and training of producers and technicians.

First elements of reply were proposed:

- MADA which has the appropriate financial tools, including investment aid that may relate to the production and valorization of this production (up to \$ 15 000 and 70% subsidy)
- extension services that will rely increasingly on such dynamic too rare in Albania,
- regional agricultural services are ready to develop these collaborations and seek a better sharing of tasks between public services and producers organizations,
- the FORUMS, created by MADA, which now embryos platforms at the regional level, are mandated to accompany these dynamic sectors,

- Association INTERCO-Aquitaine, the organ of cooperation in the region "Aquitaine", which provides all the skills and experience of organizations of this great fruit French region
- FERT which is ready to consider the terms of a new phase that would aim to expand and sustain this processus

In perspective, two operational options were discussed to enhance these achievements, expand and enrich this producers dynamic:

- The first: ADAD become a professional partner to whom the State entrusts targets in the frame of a technical and financial contract:
 - the first experimental phase is conducted on only 3 regions
 - The action plan is defined by the actors (regional platform that brings together private and public),
 - on a technical level, it is to lead and co-manage with government services and other industry players, an assistance program and creation of references,
 - on the economic and commercial level, common and individual projects accompaniment
 - on an institutional level, it is help from interest groups to create the functions, services or activities necessary to develop a dynamic work on these three regions (facilitation)
- the second, ADAD is a simple producer organization but encouraged to sell his skills on the market of agricultural development
 - its primary function is to provide a service to its members: technical advices, training, assistance, economic or commercial projects accompaniment,
 - in order to seeking its own financial sustainability, ADAD can respond to tenders of national or international donors operating in Albania in the fields of arboriculture, agricultural development and governance including MADA which will translate into tendering the priorities set by regional platforms.



Two radically different options that are now under discussion between the different partners.

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