

## RECOVERY OF AGRICULTURAL DAMAGES AND THE RETURN OF PRODUCTION CAPACITY

Albania in February 2015 was hit by rains that went up to 200 mm in just three days. The most affected regions were the south and southeast Albania. About 10,000 hectares of farmland were damaged in the regions of Vlorë, Fier, Lushnjë, Berat, Korçë and Gjirokastra. Most of the damages were in agriculture with damages to a number of crops, forage crops, followed by damages in greenhouses for early production of vegetables and fruits. Livestock sub-sector was damaged to a lesser extent, although the lack of food in the coming months would negatively affect animal production. The EU, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, drafted a program of recovery from the floods that went beyond simple restoration of the pre-flood and aimed to increase the resistance in terms of infrastructure, institutional and social implications.



The Project “Recovery of agricultural damages and the return of productive capacity” has entered a new phase, with the direction: increasing the ability of farmers responding to such disasters in rural communities and strengthening the agricultural extension service and other stakeholders, like Center for Transfer of Agricultural Technologies, Municipal level services, Agricultural University and NGOs involved in providing services to farmers and/or willing to invest in local economic development.

FAO, in collaboration with the Ministry, is supporting capacity development through a training programme in six damaged regions (Vlorë, Fier, Lushnjë, Berat, Korçë dhe Gjirokastrë). The content of the training program includes a wide range of topics such as “Natural Hazards and Climate Change in Albania”, “Impact of Climate Change in Agriculture”, “Good



agricultural practices to reduce the risk of damage”, “Impact of climate change in integrated pest management and food security”. The training programme started in the most damaged areas of Fier: Darzezë, Povelçë, Hekal, followed by Berat, Korçë, Fier and Vlorë, with a great interest on the part of farmers to implement good practices in order

to withstand adverse weather conditions and to increase production capacity.



The training programmes concluded in Tirana with the participation of Ministry staff, representatives from National Food Authority, Center for Transfer of Agricultural Technologies, Albanian Rural Development Agency, local governments from Emergency Units, Agriculture University of Tirana, NGOs. In total were trained 727 farmers, 137 extension specialists and other institutions. The participants appreciated the topics covered, distributed materials, and indicated that trainings such as these are necessary for farm work and for the institutions to draft new protocols, strategies etc. for Climate Change and Integrated Pest Management.

One of the most important suggestions expressed by most farmers was that such knowledge should be provided in the future and extension service should be in constant contact with farmers because problems on the farm are numerous and their treatment requires knowledge and new techniques.

Training with the farmers in Fier



Training with the farmers in Berat

Training with the extension specialists in Lushnje





Trainig with the farmers in Korça



Training with the extension specialists in Vlora



Training with  
Ministry staff and  
other Institutions in Tirana