SUSTAINABLE DEVELOMPMENT OF MOUNTAINOUS RURAL ZONES OF TIRANA IN ALBANIA

DEZVOLTAREA DURABILĂ A ZONELOR RURALE MONTANE DIN TIRANA IN ALBANIA

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Abstract: *It is a fact that Albanian agricultural production takes 23% of GDP and about 50% of the population still lives in rural areas. After democratic changes in 90, there was a movement of rural population, particurlary those living in the mountainous areas to the cities. This brought e considerable abandonment of these areas. The object of the study was Shëngjergj commune in the mountainous area of Tirana. The data show that there is a huge abandonment of the population of this commune. The study through on analysis of demographic, economic, educational, health, employment, poverty indicators etc aims at social and economic diagnosis of the commune. This diagnosis is made evident by means of data obtained from the Institute of Statistics and Directory of Agriculture of the district, questionnaires, interviews Based on the European concept of sustainable development, conclusions and recommendations will be drawn on strategies and policies to be followed, in order to support the residents to stay in their places.*

Key words: *commune, sustainable development, abandonment, diagnosis*

INTRODUCTION

The commune of Shëngjergj is located on east of Tirana city, on the north it borders on the town of Burrel, commune Zall-Bastar and town of Bulqiza. On the south borders on the town of Elbasan and commune of Berzhite. On the east side on the town of Librazhd and on west side on the communes of Dajt and Petrele. It is part of the rural montainous area of Tirana. The weather of the area of Shengjergj is Atlantic-Mediterranean, with a hot summer and a cold winter, but with a stricking difference between them. In

the mountains, on the east, north-east and south the winter is cold and severe. Summer is hot. In lower areas it becomes very hot. We made the commune of Shëngjergj the object of our study for the following reasons:

1-This commune is near the city of Tirana, the metropole of Albania, the communication node of the country, as well as a communication gate with the world. It has all the possible means of communication.

2-All the central that develop and execute the political strategies for the national development are situated in Tirana.

3-The geographic position of this commune and its resources are very favourable..

The commune actually consists of 12 villages: Shëngjergj, Urë, Vërri, Shënmëri, Shëngjin, Fag, Vakumonë, Parpunjë, Façesh, Dom, Derje, Bizë.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

1-Data from the Institute of Statistics(INSTAT), Directory of Agriculture, Food and Protection of Consumer of Tirana (DBUMKT).

2- Interviews with farmers, specialists in ministry, the commune mayor.

3- Questionnaires with farmers of commune.

4-Rural evaluation with participation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

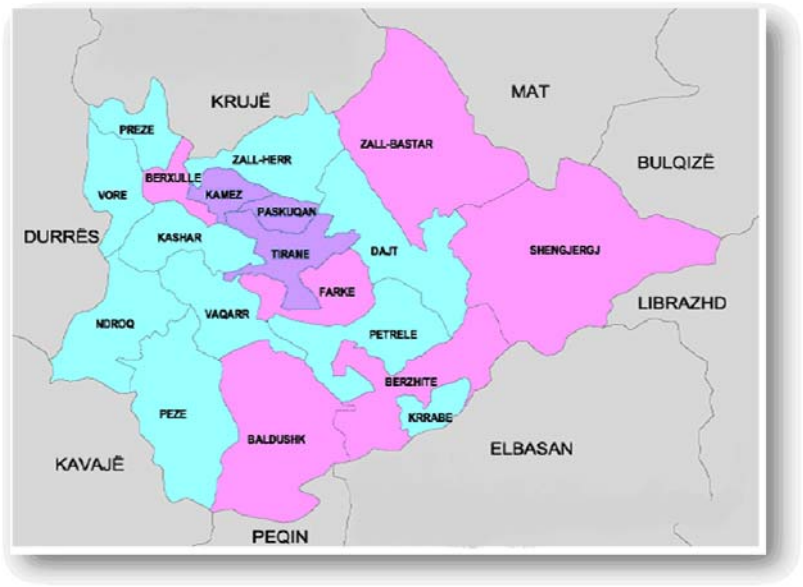
The study is made on a set of basic indicators by four Main Development Concerns

Table 1: Set of Basic Indicators by Four Main Development Concerns

Population and migration	**Social wellbeing**
Density	Income
Change	Housing
Structure	Education
Households	Health
Communities	Safety
Economic structure and implementation	**Environment and stability**
Labor force	Topography and climate
Employment	Land use changes
Sectorial shares	Habitants and species
Productivity	Soils and water
Investment	Air quality

Source: OECD (1996)

Figure 1: Communes of district of Tirana



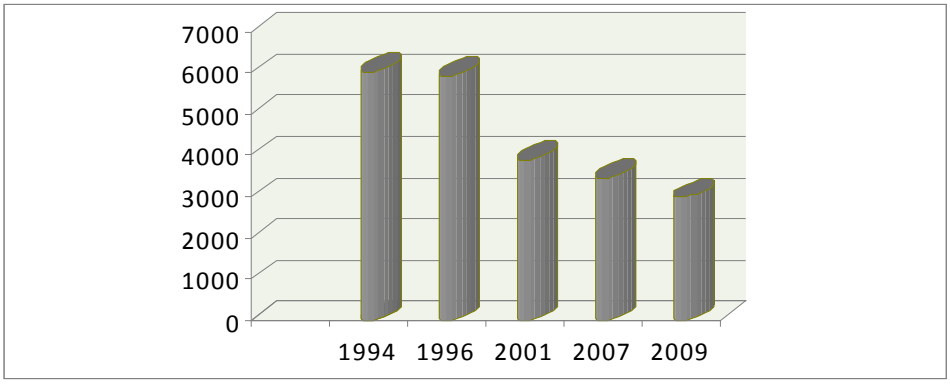
1. Population

Commune has a population of 2984 inhabitants. The number of families in this commune is 1017

Table.2: Data on the population in years

Years	1994	1996	2001	2007	2009
Population	5998	5919	3899	3445	2984

Source: Civil registry Office, Shëngjergj



As shown from the graph, there is in population a decline in years, especially after 1996. Due to a high level of poverty many farmers have moved toward the city of Tirana. Many farmers particularly in villages from Façesh, Dom and Derje abandoned their properties and settled themselves on villages near the center of commune. So, we find the highest number of inhabitants and families in the village Vërri. This because the offices and better conditions for the economic development of agriculture and livestock.

2. The structure of the land and related problems

In Shëngjergj tha land was distributed to the villagers based on the law 7501, but it is actually used based the old ownership. From the interview with the mayor of the commune and the questionnaires, it comes out that returning the propertt to the old owners, if approved according to their request, will bring about big social problems. However, from the questionnaires, resulted that about 80% of the farmers don't count themselves as real owners. because they don't assess property certificate. Some think that they do not have enough land and the number of their family members is high. Some think that the law for land is not executed yet. Some villagers do not own any land at all.

Table 3: Density and area (inhabitant /ha) Shëngjergj commune

Shëngjergj Commune	All (ha)		Population (inhabitant)		Area (ha/ inhabitant)	
	K	K*	K	K*	K	K*
Land all	123849	20339	229522	2984	0.54	6.8
From which						
1.land area for work	31445	4620	229522	2984	0.13	1.54
a.arable land	23636	974	229522	2984	0.10	0.32
b fruit trees	7809	205	229522	2984	0.03	0.06
c.meadow pastures	7628	3441	229522	2984	0.03	1.15
2.Forestry	49221	8450	229522	2984	0.21	2.83

K- Communes all K* Commune Shëngjergj

The table above shows that Shengjergj commune has a small land area, 1.5 ha per inhabitant and pastures 1.15 ha per inhabitant. The rough highland relief, and climate conditions and a vast ares of meadows and pastures speak

clearly for trend of the farming development of this commune as given below.

Table 4: Data of livestock

	dairy all	cattle	goat	Poultry all	bees (hives all)	equine all
District of Tirana	33660	34865	24566	353000	9229	3614
Shëngjergj Commune	1200	5000	2000	10200	992	376
%	3.5	14.3	8.1	2.8	10.7	10.4

Source: Directory of Agriculture, Food and Protection of Consumer of Tirana

The climate favour sheep and goats procure their food more easily of this commune. The number of cows is small because they are more costly despite their high productivity in milk. Farmers of this commune rear a considerable number of poultry, where most of their products they used for familiar consumption and the rest for trading. Data show that the number of bees is increased, due to favourable conditions. A vast area of forestry, meadows and pastures is favorable for the development of the commune.

Data from the questionnaires show that 80% of farmers till the land by hand, 15% till it with animals and only about 5% plough the land with machinery. From data and questionnaires we draw these conclusions:

The use of arable land in the area is limited. Because of lack of irrigation canals, irrigation is inefficient. Agricultural machinery is scarce, farmers can not afford chemical fertilizers or others chemicals which would help increase the productivity.

3. Sources of income

Farmers of this commune procure their incomes from the following sources:

1- The remittancesfrom working their children abroad, mostly in Europian countries like Greece, Italy and England, etc

2-Retirement

3-Agricultural products sold.

Because of low level incomes is that a good number families live on social assistance. The data show that in the commune out of 1017 families, 305 are provided social assistance. They are families with more than 5 persons and they have a cow, 4 dynym of land and 10 sheep and goats.

4. Education

Actually in this commune there are 6 nine-year elementary schools, 1high school, 3 kindergartens. The number of pupils attending school is decreased. This because:

1- After 1990 a part of the population has moved away from these areas.

2- The children do not go to to high school because of the long distance and they have to walk 4 hours per day, mostly in Shëngjergj commune, in villages Fag, Parpunjë, and Vakumonë.

3-Families have minimal incomes and their children have to graze and feed the cattle.

4-Some of teachers do not have the right education.

5-Some of the nine-years elementary schools are not reconstructed, get so it is impossible to teach there.

80% of the farmers say that their children want to go to the university but because of the situation , they find it difficult to succeed.

5. The infrastructure

The major problem of Shëngjergj commune is infrastructure. There are not main roads to link those villages with the center. More problematic are villages Përpunjës, Fag, Domje, Derje. Farmers of these areas find it easier to go to Kllojkë, 1.5 hours on foot, than to go to the center of the commune 4 hours on foot. A problem is lack of water for irrigation. As to the telephone service there is only a phone operator in the center of the commune. However some of farmers have solve this problem by buying mobile phones. Farmers can't get bank credits because the interest rates are very high and they can't afford them. The construction of road from Tirana to the center of Shëngjergj commune will affect the development of commune not only by helping the mobility of the people, but also by promoting of tourism development. About 50% of the people interviewed said they wanted to stay in the village and they were linked with agriculture, 30% said that they would go to a more developed village, and about 20% of them say that they would go to the city. Most of them, about 65% said that they are ready to cooperate with each-other, but not organized in cooperatives as in the old system.

CONCLUSIONS

1- Having in mind the natyral beauty, the geographic position of the commune and the development of the mountainous tourism investments must be made on the highland areas. A good starting point could be the plain of Biza.
2-Being introduced on the turist guide by the district of Tirana, the commune may be the object of visits of foreign pople.
3-Farmers must choose the most capable visionar persons to govern their commune. They should not to be chosen by politics.
4-Resources of the commune should be adminstred by the commune itself. As they are considered as state property by low, the joint-stock companies of water enterprises have problems with communes.
5-Members of the distrikt council and the mayor of the commune should got forward the opinions and the requests of the commune which would help design the policies of rural areas and attract different investitors.
6-Farmers of this commune must be organized to cooperate in forms of associations, cooperatives, interests group with agencies, organizations and different developing projects which act on highland areas as MADA, IFAD, OXFAM, SIDA.

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