

# WORKING ON THE NATIONAL CATALOGUE OF INNOVATIONS IN ALBANIA



By Lucia Turco  
BAZH Project Assistant

BAZH ONG and the Albanian Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation ARTI are actively working in order to updating and enriching the Catalogue of Innovations for Human Development.

In particular BAZH NGO and ARTI organized meetings with some authors of innovations included into the Catalogue and with the authors of two studies funded by ARTI. The main issues discussed during the meetings concerned know how transfers realized, activities developed for each innovation and others innovative technologies proposed by the authors.



## **AULEDA - Economic Development Agency of Vlorë Region**

AULEDA is one of the Innovations promoted by the National Catalogue. A meeting was organized with Dokleida Begotaraj, Head of Finance, Besmira Hoxha, Responsible for Public Relation and Lorela Lazaj, Environmental Consultant. During the meeting, among activities implemented or in progress, the project *Coach for employment* was presented as interesting in the field of Innovation for Human Development. Funded by SWISS CONTACT, the project aims to facilitate employment for vulnerable persons throughout a coaching process. In the last period the main beneficiaries were Rom and Egyptian communities with which some training on employment activities were organized and business plans were elaborated to start their activities.



## **Protected Houses for social and economic integration**

A meeting took place with Malinda Rodha, Psychologist, Mariana Kllapi, Human resources specialist and AULEDA. The staff informed that the Ministry of Health is promoting the *Protected Houses* which are now implemented also in Shkodër, Korcë and Elbasan. The Ministry also supports the transfer of knowledge inviting the staff to take part at national Conferences, to present their work and share best practices. Also the private sector supports the experience giving the opportunity to the people living in the Protected Houses to acquire working skills. The Innovation of the protected House is an example of public institutions, civil society and private sector cooperating to a strategic objective.

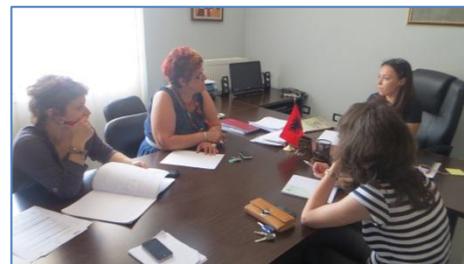


## **CTTA Center for Technology Transfer in Agriculture**

The meeting with Aulona Veici, CTTA Director, concerned the *New*



*bio preparation to control olive fly*, to know the results of this impacting innovation. In the last years the production was increased and the scientific researches and related applications were developed. An example is the waste of the olive, transformed to a material for business and production of energy. CTTA supports the transfer of knowledge in all Albanian territories, collaborating with different national and international partners as CNR IVALSA (Trees and Timber Institute), University of Florence, CRA-Centro di Ricerca Agricola (Rome), CIHEAN (Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo) in Bari where some Albanian experts received a specialization. CTTA also presented a new project that could be included in the Catalogue: the *characterization of the olive and oil* of each Albanian territory. The project was realized by CTTA in collaboration with COI (Centro Internazionale di Olivicoltura) and the University of Perugia (Italy). A database was created for the first time in Albania. Other important result was the plantation of Albanian olive groves' grafts in Cordoba (Spain), Marrakesh (Morocco) and Izmir (Turkey).



### Organic agriculture practices in vineyards

The meeting was organized with Enver Isufi, Professor at the Agriculture University of Tirana, Marzena Zukowska, photographer freelance and Sara Qamar, journalist freelance. The organic way for agriculture can be a great solution against crisis for a little country. But in Albania, today, among 12 thousand hectares of vineyards, only 20 are managed in an organic way. The transfer of the organic technique in vineyards is now implemented in Korçë (Albania), Mitrovica (Kosovo), Macedonia and in south of Italy. This experience is an example of good cooperation between University and private sector. In Ishmi village, they produce three types of wine applying this method: Merlot, Cabernet and Tempranilo. A good balance between business and respect of the environment.



### Green pruning

Meetings were organized with ADAD Association for development of Agriculture, in particular with Liljana Isakaj, ADAD Coordinator and Hafuz Domi, ADAD President and author of the Innovation. The green pruning technology was implemented in Dibër and in Korçë with a pilot project and it is now applied on the plum trees in Korçë and Voskopoje and on the pear trees in Dibër, Skhoder and Korçë. ADAD is member of ARBOMED, a network organized by AREFLH (*Assemblée des Régions Européennes Fruitières, Légumières et Horticoles*) and FERT (*Professional Organization of French Producers*). In Albania, the creation of a General Convention between professional Institutions like ADAD, University of Agriculture and Institutes of Research is planned for the current year to support the future implementations of the projects. A visit was also organized in Korçë and Voskopoje where the technique of the green pruning is applied. ADAD also implements the following techniques with the potential to be included in the Catalogue:



- **Rootstocks.** In the past many varieties were planted in the country without attention to their adaptability to the soil and weather conditions. The first step of this technique consists in testing the adaptability of a plant and the substitution eventually needed is not made through the complete eradication of the first plant. Indeed, it is sufficient to proceed in carrying out a little cut on the rootstocks on which insert the new plant. This technique allows to obtainer good combinations of varieties. The technique is implemented in Korçë and Zemblack on the apples trees (90%) and pear, plum and cherries trees (10%).
- **Cultivation of the form AXE.** This technique consists in acting on the branches (both main central trunk that the lateral



branches) of the plants to improve the production. In general the branches grow vertically and the technique consists in bend the branches when the plants are 3 years old, so when the branches are still pliable. The branches take the Axe Form and not only the harvest is easier but the fruits are more exposed to the sun and protected from the rain. The result is the increase of the production: 60 tonnes per hectare against 20 tonnes produced without applying the technique. It is implemented on the apple trees but also on plum trees and pear trees (just at the beginning).



### Study of a biomass chain in Albania

The meeting with Prof. Endrit Kullaj, Agricultural University of Tirana and Italo Romani, environmental engineer, was organized by ARTI to know the results of the study and the prospects of its practical application. The study, conducted from 2007 to 2009, aimed to identify the best product to be used as biomass for the energy production. The result of the study was the identification of the oil production waste as a good biomass. However, this waste is today used for business and more researches about sustainability of the project are necessary. Other research planned by the Agricultural University of Tirana concerns the fruit groves adaptability (in collaboration with foreign Universities) and plants adaptability to climate change tendencies in Albania (arid-desert climates).



### Via in vitro cultivation of the mushrooms Pleurotus Sp

The meeting with Prof. Jordan Merkuri and Prof. Magdalena Cara Agricultural University of Tirana, Enver Shkoza and Mr. Irakli Shkoza, producers, Edmon Agolli, ARTI Director, was organized by ARTI. The meeting concerned the results of the researches conducted in the Laboratory of Plant Protection in Durrës on the Mycelium and its implementation in Divjakë, in the Lushnja District. Here the Mycelium is used for the mushrooms Pleurotus production (1.3 Hectares for 100 quintals of mushrooms produced each year) and the quality is certificated. This production can be interesting for foreign investments: in Albania 250.000 Euro can be sufficient to invest for the mushrooms production, against 5 million needed in European countries. Close to the mushroom barn there is a greenhouse in which the roof is made by climbing plants for keeping temperature down in a natural way.



After all these meetings a work is ongoing to produce new brochures to be inserted in the Catalogue. BAHZ and ARTI are also working for the implementation of a *National Service for Human Development Innovation*, based on the Albanian Catalogue.



### To know more

[Albanian Catalogue of Innovations](#)

[National Innovation Service - Project Presentation](#)

