

## **AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE REVITALIZATION OF DURMITOR VILLAGES**

The development of agriculture is basic directions of development of this area, because a considerable number of the population lives in the countryside and engages in agricultural production. The development of this activity is based on the intensification of livestock farming on the basis of mini farms in the individual sector and complementary development of agriculture, tourism and small businesses. For this purpose it is necessary to develop production of high quality products which are characteristic for this area, to increase processing capacities and to ensure the security of placement through the purchase of livestock and other products.

### **1. BASIC STARTING POINTS IN AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

As already stated in the future shaping of the economic structure of Montenegro, and the Durmitor area, an important place should be given to agricultural production, and above all the production of ecologically high quality and health safe food.

The long-term orientation of this area for production of quality food has a strong foothold in the following facts:

- First- despite the high mountainous character of the area, agricultural land covers a large area of over 74,000 ha, accounting for just over 14% of the total agricultural area.

- Second - in percentage of protected areas and especially in ecological performance of basic natural factors (land, air and water) Durmitor area is one of the best preserved areas which provides very favorable conditions for permanent orientation to produce high quality and health safe food here, bearing in mind the fact that such food (with a recognized brand) on the market achieves from 2-3 times higher prices.

- Third- significant agricultural capacities should be economically evaluated in agricultural production, and especially in the development of livestock breeding. According to expert analysis, only the surface of Sinjajevina can accept about 7,000 adult cattle and 60,000 sheep during the 4-month grazing period, without counting the young. With the construction of infrastructure, roads, water and electricity, this mountain can be one of the most extensive and high quality pastures in the Balkans.

- Fourth - An active economic policy focused on food production will contribute directly and indirectly to mitigating and stopping the depopulation process, as well as to the demographic, economic and social revitalization of rural areas, which is certainly of long-term strategic interest. In order to achieve such a development orientation in practice, it is necessary to focus on building a modern rural economy, which will be based on: food production, tourist services and small economy with appropriate infrastructure development.

#### **- LIVESTOCK - MOTOR POWER OF AGRAR DEVELOPMENT**

The development of livestock breeding, and above all sheeping and cattle breeding, should be led by the state, with constant material strengthening and adequate organization of

agricultural producers. Work should be done to change the racial composition of livestock, to organize veterinary services, agricultural pharmacies, to educate for modern production, to transfer modern science and technology in the production and processing of agricultural products, and to apply generally accepted norms and standards of quality in organizing purchasing services. It is necessary to encourage and materially assist the construction of rural infrastructure, the opening of mountain areas and the revitalization of Katun settlements. All these activities require not only the assistance and support of the state, still programmed and well-organized professional assistance to agricultural producers. In addition to improving racial composition and health care, it is necessary to provide a radical improvement in livestock nutrition, that is, to balance the needs of livestock in the summer and winter, as this disproportion is one of the weakest points in livestock farming.

#### - SHEEP BREADING

It is necessary to devise measures to stop the declining trend in the number of sheep. It would be realistic to expect this area to account for between 15% and 20% of the total sheep fund.

Such relatively high sheep development requirements are based on the fact that sheep are best able to utilize plant mass in vast mountain pastures. Besides the mentioned measures, we should work on breeding the autochthonous breed of sheep, and raising their production properties by taking additional measures such as: increasing the number of sheep by lending to farms, improving the technology of nutrition and increasing the production of animal feed, improving production technologies and improvement of health care, organized continuous lambing, organized purchase of lambs and wool.

#### - CATTLE BREEDING

A slight increase in the number of cattle after 1994 is encouraging. This was influenced by measures taken by the Republican authorities to encourage an improvement in the racial composition and increase in the number of cattle, as well as a growing focus on cattle breeding instead sheeping. This applies to mixed and old-age households that lack the labor force necessary to raise sheep. With the continuation of an active economic policy in the field of cattle, it is realistic to expect the Durmitor area to participate with 11-12% in the total number of cattle.

In order to achieve this, it is necessary to take the following measures:

- improving the racial composition of the bush and brown bovine animals and their mares with respect to the Simmental breed, which would ensure greater production of milk and meat, as well as good growth in fattening,
- organizing the work of the selection service at cooperatives, development promotion centers or dairies, with mandatory record keeping,
- creating financial conditions for the adaptation of existing and construction of modern livestock facilities to enable the application of modern zoo-hygiene and zootechnical measures
- organizing the production of meat in the "cow-calf" system and fattening to higher weights (about 500 kg),

- expansion of the seasonal fattening of grazing throats with a minimum amount of concentrate,
- Consideration of possibilities for development of a cattle farm as a factor of development and improvement of cattle breeding,
- organizing the purchase of milk and its processing.

Of other types of livestock breeding, the breeding of horses and poultry is of greater importance, although a declining trend is present. Pig and goat farming doesn't have a significant presence in this area, although in recent years there has been an increasing demand for goat cheese and lamb meat. Certainly these types of livestock have local importance, while horse breeding may have a wider meaning.

#### - THE MOST IMPORTANT PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

This section provides a preliminary overview of the most important production areas and products through which the most important natural and human factors of the area should be evaluated for the long-term development of food production.

#### - MILK PRODUCTION

A number of measures has already indicated which should lead to a steady increase in the production of quality milk. The most important thing is to be able to train as many farms as possible, to ensure favorable price relations and safe purchase of milk. A greater degree of economic valorisation is the organization of milk processing and the production of certain quality dairy products. Therefore, it will be necessary to build mini dairies through which this is provided. The construction of a mini dairy will enable the production of dairy products, first of all quality cheese, yogurt, sour milk, sour cream and butter. Of course, priority should be given to the work on the production of Durmitor milk cream recognized by regional origin, with specific chemical and physical characteristics.

#### - MEAT PRODUCTION

In addition to the traditional production of lamb, beef and sheep meat in the fresh state, it is necessary to consider, on the basis of appropriate expert analyzes, and in particular an assessment of the future market needs, the justification of production and individual meat products. Certainly the production and processing of quality meat, in addition to standardization, also entails the need to build mini-slaughterhouses, and other objects, as well as modern devices.

#### - FISH PRODUCTION

Considering the watercourses and large surface areas of clean water, it is rightly concluded that this area has good conditions for the production of quality fish. This primarily refers to the reservoir of Piva Lake where it is possible to organize large production. If there is an orientation to largest production of fish on Lake Piva, it is realistic to plan for its processing - canning and eventual drying. There are also significant opportunities in the production of quality brown trout in individual mini-ponds, which is most clearly confirmed by the private pond in Mratinje. There are excellent opportunities for organizing sport fishing on the clear Durmitor

rivers and forming a very significant and attractive offer for the development of sport fishing tourism.

#### - HONEY PRODUCTION

In recent years, the production of quality honey has been steadily increasing, so that in 1998 this area participated with 4.5% of beehives in Montenegro. Taking appropriate measures in honey production and organization of beekeepers, it is possible to organize production and marketing of honey under the recognized brand “Durmitorski honey” in a relatively short period. With the development of honey production, should be considered the development of pharmaceutical and cosmetic honey products, which requires more detailed studies.

#### - VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

In addition to the traditional production of potatoes and cabbages, there is a growing production of various high quality vegetable crops, such as carrots, beets, onions and lettuces. As the increasing demand and consumption of these products in fresh and processed forms, it would be good to study the possibilities for production of certain types of vegetables, including the production of fermented vegetable juices. It is quite certain that there are all the conditions for organizing quality seed potatoes.

#### - MANUFACTURE AND PROCESSING OF FRUIT AND FOREST FRUITS

Production of very diverse and high-quality fruits (plums, apples, pears, blueberries, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, pomegranates, hazelnuts) is present in this area, but almost none of this products is present in production. There is no (except traditional processing plum) organized processing into various final products. There is need for more detailed researching based on quality production, especially grains and final processing (various juices and sweets).