



HELVETAS | KOSOVO
Swiss Intercooperation

INTEGRATION PEST MANAGEMENT: LESS PESTICIDES HIGHER QUALITY

Impact Story

May, 2012

Background

Mr. Skender Ramadani is a hard working farmer at Godanc village, region of Shtime. He began producing vegetables and seedlings in 1994 (when he was about to end his studies in the faculty of agriculture), initially with a small area of 50m², and with old methods of cultivation, which lacked satisfactory result, due to appearance of diseases, pests, and delays of products in the market.



HPK Intervention

In 2001, while Skender was contemplating what he could do differently to overcome his obstacles at production, he met HPK staff and a close collaboration began.

This collaboration was strengthened with the organization of a study visit to Switzerland, where he has chances to see and to know more about advanced technology of production of seedlings,

as well as cultivation of new varieties that at that time were not cultivated in Kosovo.

In 2005 HPK in partnership with CABI Institute organized training for integrated vegetable production (“Good Agriculture Practices”, soil preparation, irrigation system, ventilation, use of proper fertilizers and pesticides) to improve the awareness of IPM methods.

Except the IPM trainings in and outside of country, in 2008 Skender was supported with trays and 250m² with strawberry.

Seeing the benefits of using modern technology, in 2008 Skender was interested to purchase the seedlings growth room (this was supported from IOM) and in 2010 he has support from HPK in new technology with greenhouse

equipment (in amount of 4,000€), to improve quality of seedlings and vegetable production.

In addition to providing information on farming techniques and proper use of inputs, HPK staff continued to advise the farmers on cultivation of certain vegetables and organized study visits in the region.

Skender's production success

After completion of training and according to the suggestions of HPK, Skender started with integrated production activities (with considerable reduced use of pesticides) and increase in cultivation area in 5000m². Besides the cultivation of seedlings (in 1500m²), he expanded production activity with other crops (pepper, cucumber, green salad and spinach), using advanced cultivation technology.

With the aim of sharing Skender's success story, is organized a farmer field day where Skender shared his

experience with cultivation of vegetables and seedlings, referring to the best agriculture techniques, growth room, new equipments and their effect on increasing quality and productivity.

Now, Skender works as a consultant, providing services to farmers (12 farmers and 3000 purchasers of seedlings). With increasing cultivation capacity (up to 100,00 seedlings) and IP production, has managed to hire 3 regular employees and 10 seasonal and he became among the most successful farmer of the region, reaching an annual turnover of up to 35,000€.



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