

LITTLE SUPPORT CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC SERVICES: KOSOVO INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE

Prepared by: Basri Pulaj, Stuart Pettigrew and Heini Conrad

Background

The Kosovo Institute of Agriculture (KIA) in Peja is part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) and provides technical and scientific support to the Ministry, its departments and for interested company and farmers.

During the past years KIA received support from different donors mainly in purchasing modern equipments for different fields of operation. Currently, KIA has around 315 ha in its property and 33 full time jobs working in different departments (laboratory).

Intervention by HPK

HPK's collaboration with KIA started in 2010, under the general Memorandum of Understanding with MAFRD; KIA then disposed of modern equipments (worth 120,000 Euros) for pesticides testing, but we were not able to use them. HPK supported KIA in building the necessary capacities with regional internship through a 9 month training on soil testing techniques, practical training of four staff on pesticide residue testing on fruit

& vegetable, soil and water and short internships in neighbouring countries to improve staff capacity for plant protection techniques. Furthermore the Project gave support to KIA on purchasing reagents and small equipment for testing residues and plant diseases in exchange for a number of analyses the project needed. In total the Project's contribution within two years is around 11,500 Euros.

Results of the collaboration

Little support moneywise, but it made a big change as skills of KIA's staffs have been significantly improved on different levels in plant protection, residue and soil testing techniques. KIA staffs are now able to use the donated expensive equipment correctly. Only last year they tested around 300 soil samples in collaboration with EU, in addition to this they improve qual-

ity of plant protection services (fire blight) through using techniques which have been learned. KIA sufficiently improved practical work with the reagents and small equipments provided. KIA thanks to the received support from HPK started working with faculty of biology and they are in process for further development.

Statement of Bardh Begolli

head of Analytical Laboratory (KIA)

"In 2008/2009 we got equipment from donors, but were not able to use them properly. Only when collaboration with HPK started things improved. A number of trainings have been supported and now we are well prepared on using these equipments in commercial basis. Last year, we did around 60-

70 laboratory analysis for liquids which has not been done before. In addition to this, we use to engage 4 students



during the year with aim to increase their knowledge's and to complete their theses.

Lessons learned

- The good results could be achieved because of the willingness and ability of the KIA staff to improve the quality of the services delivered to the clients. KIA is now offering services for pesticide testing which they could not do before.
- KIA now is able to deliver important specific services to the sector. As an example; for scaling up of apple production; it was feared that sampling might be fire blight affected. Thanks to the improved skills and equipment, KIA was able to prove that apple

nurseries were not fire blight free and confidence for further investments in the apple sub-sector was built up.

- New services are now available: before, samples had to be sent to Albania and other countries for a reliable testing, now there is a national institution who can take this role on a sustainable basis.
- National institution has been enforced whereas before the services were not available and the confidence was not there.

Statement of Mr. Fehmi Genci

Director of KIA

"I consider collaboration between KIA and HPK being very effective in identifying problems and offering solutions. KIA got very good support from HPK, maybe not in high amount of money but more focused to the needs and functions within KIA to improve activities. I just want to mention three activities that have improved thanks to the good collaboration, i) soil testing techniques through the internship for

our staff, ii) testing pesticide residues and iii) plant protection services.





HELVETAS
Swiss Intercooperation

| KOSOVO

Case study KIA

LITTLE SUPPORT CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC SERVICES: KOSOVO INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE

Prepared by: Basri Pulaj,
Stuart Pettigrew and Heini Conrad