

“Vlora River Valley”

A partnership for local economic development.

Hasan Hallko

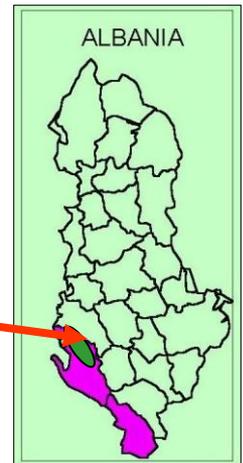
Executive Director

AULEDA - Local Economic Development Agency



Analysis realized in 2004-2005

Vlora Region, North-East



Aggregates Dates

Geographic Position

Ecological Valley is situated in the north-east area of Vlora Region and has a surface of 828 km² of which; 25% plains, 47% hills, 28% alpine surface (mountains) 59 km waters (5900 ha)

Demography

Number of Communes: 7 (Shushice, Armen, Vllahine, Kote, Sevaster, Brataj, Vranisht),
Population: 43, 000 inhabitants, Average life expectancy is 71.4 years old, with 68.5 years old for men and 74.3 years old for women. About 33% of the population is less than 15 years old.

Core public services, facilities and infrastructure:

Health: 7 communes` hospitals, 26 rural clinics. Total number of doctors 20 in the entire area.

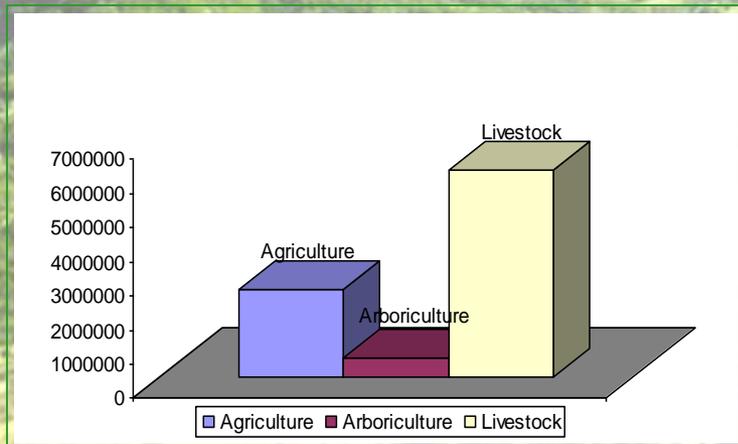
Education: 44 centres of which 6 high school, 438 teachers, 6497 students.

Drinking water: 33 rural aquedots, 316 wells and 60 reservoirs.

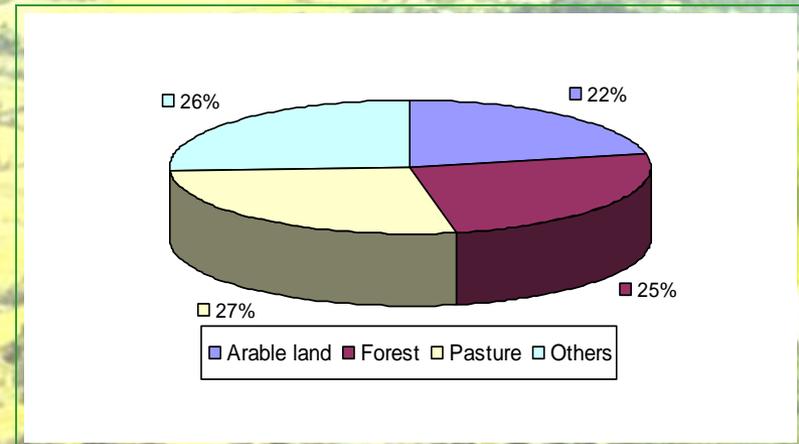
Food and Agriculture Sector

- The agriculture has been and will continue to be one of the most important sectors of the country. Production of ecological valley gives about 30% of the total Albanian agricultural production.
- Albanian agriculture still is conditioned by small farm holdings, which production is oriented to meet the family needs.
- During the years 04-05, the cultivated surface totaled about 18,000ha, mainly with cereals, vegetables, potatoes, forage crops and fruit bearing trees.

Value by branches



Structure of Land 2004



Development of Agricultural Sector

- **Wheat**

Planted area is about 2295 ha. Traditionally the wheat production occupies the first place in population food. The annual average yield is about 5,200 tons yearly.

- **Maize**

It's used mainly as animal feed, but in some zones and for food. Planted area is about 585 ha. Annual production app 2,300 tons

- **Vegetables**

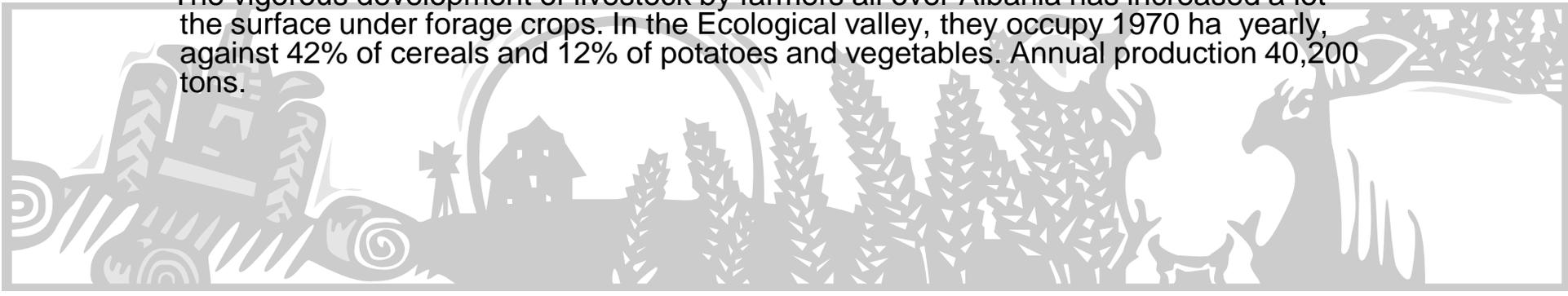
The overall area under vegetables amounts about 684 ha with an annual production of 14,200 tons. The low production is a result of lack of advance technology as characteristic for the entire area.

- **Fruit culture**

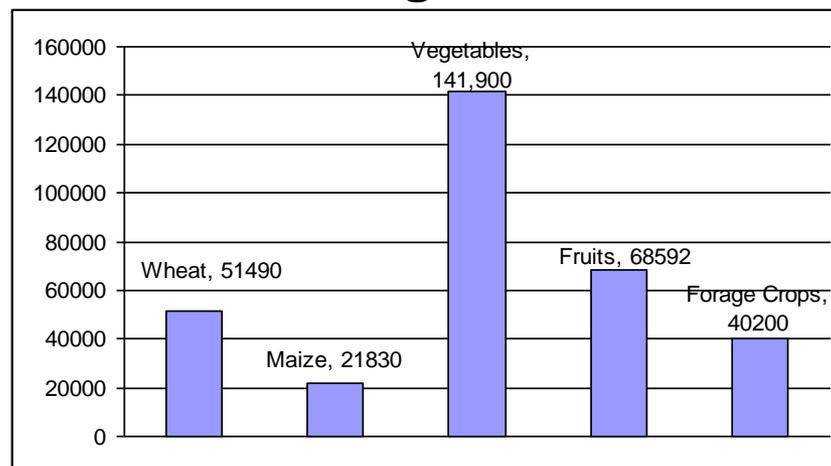
Even the climatic conditions having encouraged a lot this area, the fruits production amounts 6,900 tons yearly. The most spread fruit trees are grape, olive, plum, cherry, chest-nuts, walnuts, peaches, ect.

- **Forage crops**

The vigorous development of livestock by farmers all over Albania has increased a lot the surface under forage crops. In the Ecological valley, they occupy 1970 ha yearly, against 42% of cereals and 12% of potatoes and vegetables. Annual production 40,200 tons.



Production of Agricultural Sector



Agricultural Vehicles in the area

Nr	Description	Total number of vehicles
1	Caterpillar Tractor	6
2	Tractor	189
3	Mini-tractor and cultivator	51
4	Combine Harvester	19
5	Seeding machine	96
6	Mowing, harvesting and milling machines	71

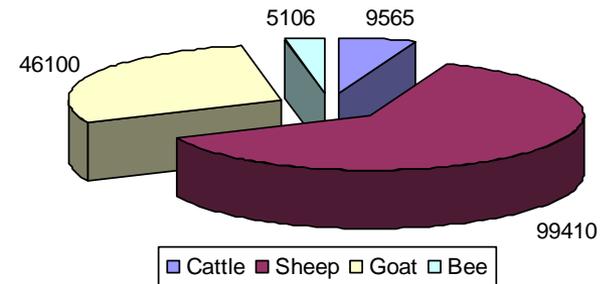
Livestock

Livestock is an ancient tradition of Albania, mainly being related to the terrain, mountains, pastures and the appropriate conditions for all the animal species.

In Albania and particularly in the Ecological valley, the tradition has been more for small ruminants and does speak for the reputation of some animal products and the special savor of meat and dairy products.

Small farms and livestock production

Livestock sector has been considerably increased. In Ecological valley 10100 peasant families run livestock and 75,6% of them sell their animal products. Small farms characterized by a given number of livestock (more than 5 cattle, more than 100 goat/ /sheep) amounts in total 208 units. Also this area is distinguished for apiculture with a large number of apiaries



Number of livestock



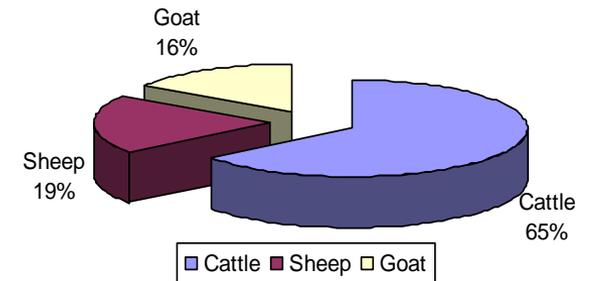
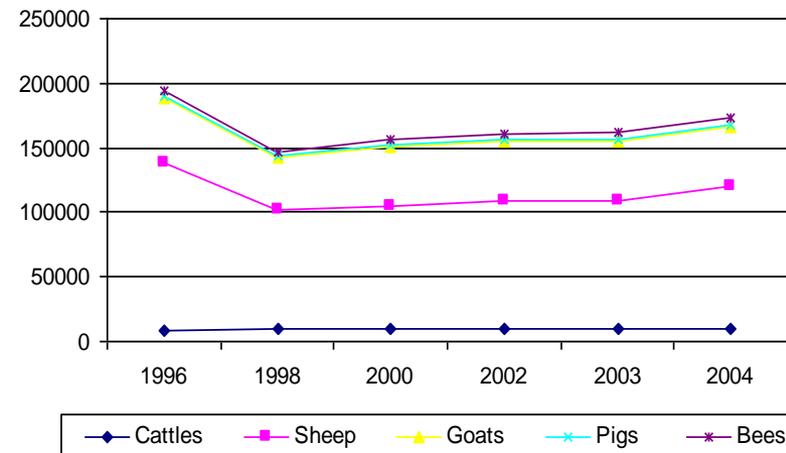
Statistics 1996- 2004

Number of livestock

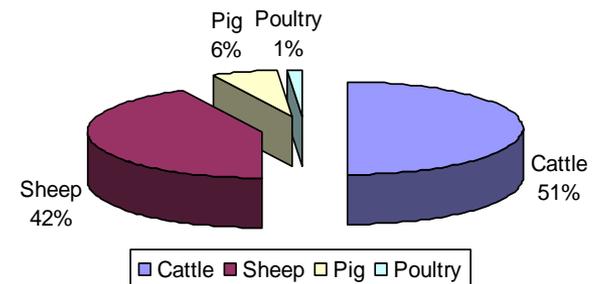
Year	1996	1998	2000	2002	2003	2004
Cattle	8000	9200	9400	9415	9565	9600
Sheep	130000	93000	96000	99000	99410	110000
Goats	50000	40000	45500	46000	46100	47000
Pigs	1800	1100	1400	1500	1560	1600
Bees	4250	3800	4200	4500	5106	5200

Annual Production (2004) in tons

Milk	24,250
Meat (live weight)	5,350



Annual Milk Production for 2004



Annual Meat Live Weight for 2004

SWOT ANALISYS

Strengths

1. Landscape and climate conditions
2. Cultural heritage
3. Typical organic products
4. Human resources
5. A preliminary agreement between public institutions of the area, for common objectives of development, is signed

Weaknes

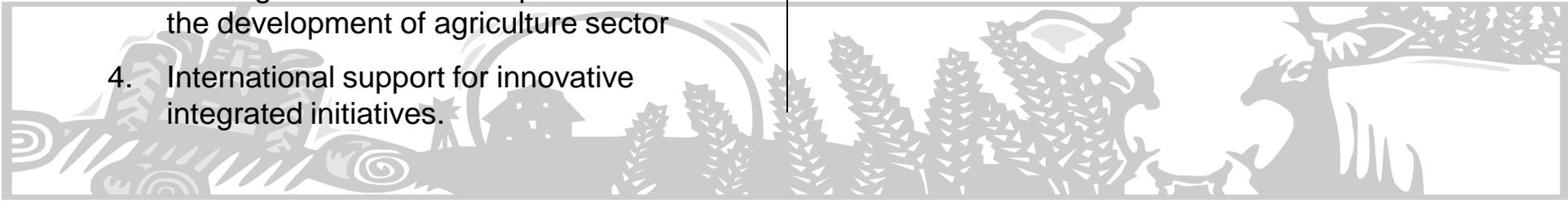
1. Low socioeconomic organizing level
2. Emigration
3. Lack of infrastructure
4. Lack of advanced technology

Opportunities

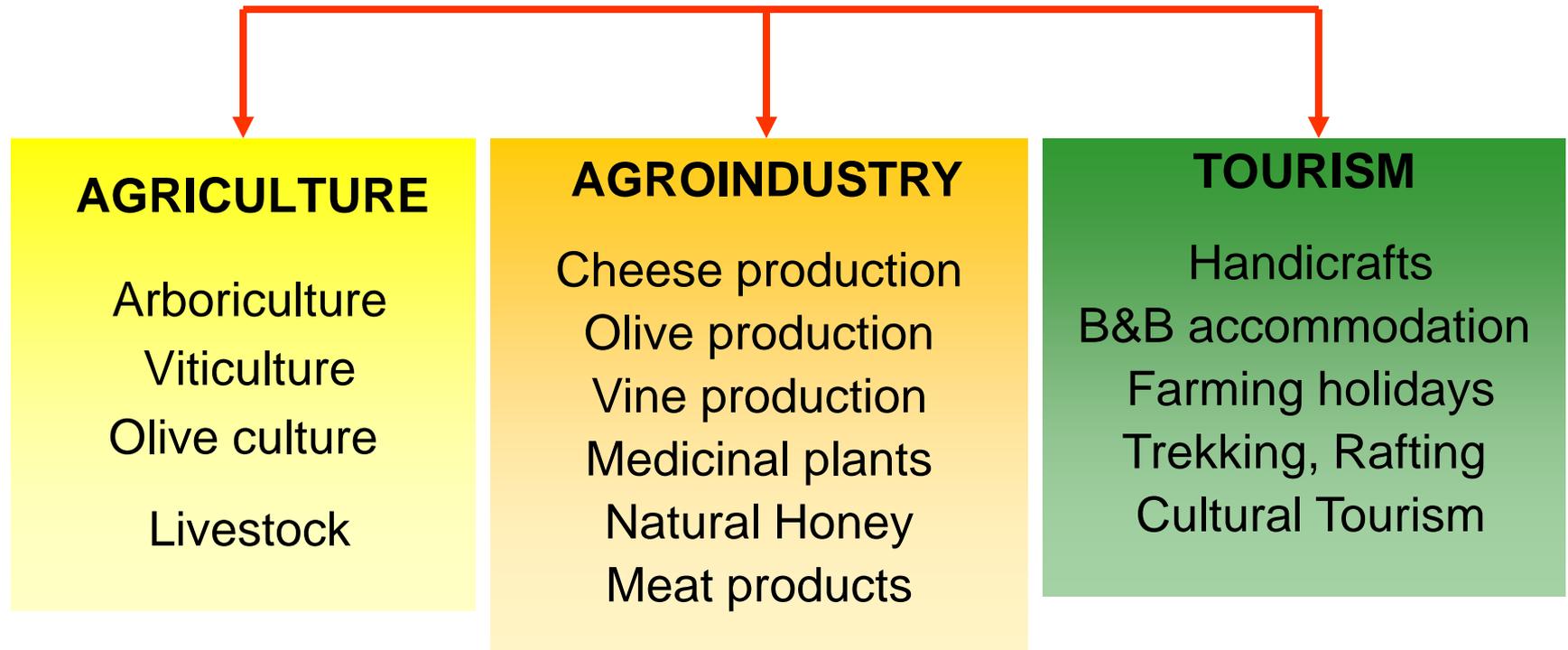
1. Promotion of the territorial partnership as a tool for sustainable development in the rural areas.
2. The market evolution and the increase of attention on the ecology and the quality of the products.
3. The regional and national priorities of the development of agriculture sector
4. International support for innovative integrated initiatives.

Threats

None



Priorities



**THE FUTURE OF
THE VLORA RIVER VALLEY...**



TERRITORIAL PARTNERSHIP



ECOLOGICAL VALLEY

INTERVENTION PROJECT IDEA in the benefit of Vlora River area

To reach the objective for a sustainable development of the albanian economy it is of a crucial importance to approach the values and the potentialities of the actually disposal resources towards the actualisation and the definition of a define competitive advantage.

The so called weakness of the albanian economic system could be really considered as one of the biggest and possible competitive andvantages.

A model which refers to the evolutive trends of the international markets, takes into consideration the processes of the globalisation still present, proposes a high added value system, proposes criterias and mecanisms for a long period sustainability.



General objectives:

- The project intends to qualify the selected area as a territorial system of high ecological vocation through an intensive integration of the different social and economic components present in the area.
- By utilising a mixt of financial, economic, technical and marketing instruments and a reachable objective realise a diffuse system of sensibility, competencies and productivity oriented to a quality production on BIO brand and the construction of so called ecological key value svsystems.



Specific objective:

To condition the choices of the selected area inhabitants and stakeholders to the urbanistic, social, economic and productive ones, to the environment and traditional culture protection by constructing, around it, such a value system able to support area socio- economic development.



Specific objectives:

- **The conservation and the recuperation of the existing habitancy heritage ;**
- **The conservation and the recuperation of the scenary and the cultural features of the territory;**
- **The valorization of the traditional culture, the exploration of the local values and knowledges;**
- **The identification and the valorization of the existing economic activities coherent to the plan objectives;**
- **The identification of the innovative economic activities to undertake coherent to the plan objectives;**
- **The valorization and the development of the local products through the study and the implementation of the marketnig campaigns in the national and the international level;**
 - The denomination brand
 - The protocol and the system of the control of the quality standarts.
- **The valorization and the promotion of the territory through the development of such a touristic offer oriented at the values of rural traditions, at the welfare and the ecology.**



Activities:

First phase - Research-Action

An intensive animation and sensibilization activity at the local level. Different field meetings, institutional ones and with citizens, will be organized aiming at the presentation and the discussion of the objectives and the instruments offered by the project.

Results

- The consensus established
- Reasoning map of the disposal local resources.



Activities:

Second phase

- Involvement of different actors and AULEDA , Local Economic Development Agency of Vlora Region, as coordinator.
- Elaboration of an operative plan considering the endogene economic, technical, human and social resources emerged and defined in the second phase Research- Action.

The plan, lasting two years, will be articulated into different objectives, partners involved and the utilised means in subprograms.

- The design, the typology and the dimension of the services to be offered in the area like: technical assistance; entrepreneurial and agronomic animation.
- Managerial and professional training, urban technical assistance, assistance to institutional decentralised decision making, credit assistance and project financing, marketing assistance on products and the territory.



INSTRUMENTS:

- **Animation/ Training:**
- **Technical Assistance / Accompanying:**
- **Credit assistance:**
- **Follow up/tutorage:**
- **Decentralised cooperation:**
- **Territorial Marketing :**



The implementation period:

January 2006 continuing.



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