



Research, innovation and technology transfer in the agri-food sector in the Western Balkan countries/territories: Phase II

Mirsad Spahić

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Podgorica, Montenegro

Introduction

- Montenegro is on the 49th place on the list of 131 countries in the world, according to the global innovation index, and is considered a moderate innovation in relation to the countries of the European Union.



- Although much is missing, Montenegro is a country with rapid growth and development of innovation ecosystem.



Methodology

Two essential concepts:

- The Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation System (AKIS) and the Innovation Spiral with the aim to identify
- Assess the capacities of the agro-food innovation actors involved in RITT in the Montenegro.

AKIS actors

| Name of institution | Name | Contact | Category | City |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Ministry of Economic Development | Ivan Tomović | ivan.tomovic@mek.gov.me | Government | Podgorica |
| Biotechnical faculty | Sanja Radonjić | sanjar@ucg.ac.me | University of Montenegro | Podgorica |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Awater Management | Darko Konjević | dkonjevic@gmail.com | Managing Authority | Podgorica |
| Tehnopolis | Ratko Bataković | ratko.batakovic@gmail.com | Private sector | Nikšić |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Awater Management | Mirsad Spahić | mirsad.spahic@mpsv.gov.me | NT expert | Podgorica |



Interview results

Based on the interviews, we identified five directions for the improvement of agriculture in Montenegro through Research, innovation and technology transfer:

1. Better optimization of resource use,
2. Smart and precise production,
3. Creating urban gardens and smart greenhouses,
4. Improving genetic material to achieve higher yields, and
5. Protection against diseases and parasites.

Case study Montenegro – Kuća meda (The Honey House)

| General information | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name innovation | Kuća meda (The Honey House) |
| Country | Montenegro |
| Project status | Completed |
| Start date – end date | 14 August 2014 - 13 July 2016 |
| Type of innovation | Organisation innovation |
| Key actors involved | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government of Montenegro, - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro - Association of Beekeeping Organizations of Montenegro |
| Selection criteria | Success case; it is an example of benefit of farmers' association for achieving capacity for technology adoption; involves a cooperation between USAID and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro. |
| Addition information | The general goal of the Honey House project is a centre for the development of beekeeping in Montenegro. The plant enables wax processing according to the most modern standards. The main target group are beekeepers who want to connect with other actors, civil society, etc. |

Focus Group Discussion: summary of the outcomes

The FG discussed the topics, which relate to:

- The improvement of the financial support to all RITT structural components
- The finalization of the regulatory, legislative framework for RITT, FAS and AKIS
- The upgrading of both formal and non-formal educational programs
- The upgrading of the governance environment of RITT in terms of both the introduction of the necessary regulatory framework and the appropriate coordination arrangements.
- The improvement of IPARD financial support and the targeting of measures to innovation and technology development.



Conclusions of FG

- Continuity in communication / coordination between actors and constant sharing of information
- Introduction of new technologies and innovations
- Slowing down the outflow of young people who are engaged or who have the opportunity to engage in agriculture
- The state should have stronger incentives for young people (agricultural producers) to get involved in the system of food production and RITT

General Conclusions and Recommendations

- Both private and public sector do not invest in innovation
- Business models are not competitive and innovative which make them difficult to come forward to participate in the global arena business initiatives.
- Education system has a strong barrier that places human resources below the countries of the European environment and it is not results-oriented and on innovation.
- It is necessary to stimulate production towards standardization, better promotion, emphasizing uniqueness, all with the application of new knowledge and technologies.



Thank you!

