

Producer groups and nut clubs

Impacts and lessons from Albania

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Abbreviations

CNVP	Connecting Natural Values and People Foundation
DFS	District Forest Service
FPUA	Forest and Pastures Users' Association
LGU	Local Government Unit
NWFP	Non-Wood Forest Products
PG	Producer Group
Sida	Swedish International Development Agency
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation

Producer groups and nut clubs Impacts and Lessons from Albania

1 Introduction

The formation of Producer Groups (PG) and/or nut clubs can help to increase local people's income from forest products. Organisation of local forest users can lead to amongst others: increased economies of scale, better access to support services, better access to information, and increased bargaining power, which will help local forest and pasture users to generate better incomes. Also producer groups can help to promote and/or certify products. The Strengthening Communal Forestry II Project (2010-2014) implemented by Connecting Natural Values and People (CNVP) with financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Netherlands Development Organisation SNV, recognised the potential of organising forest and pasture users in groups as a means for increased income opportunities. The project worked in 6 regions: Diber, Elbasan, Gjirokaster, Korça, Kukes and Shkoder and supported the work from four project offices within the country.

Good methods to support producer groups depend on the local context. A number of key factors need to be taken into consideration to plan for successful and effective producer organisations. These factors are:

1. the type, nature, and form of organization that are most effective for serving their members;
2. the type of support, i.e., public versus private, and mix of approaches that are best placed to assist in the formation and maintenance of PGs; and
3. the conditions necessary for ensuring their economic viability

At present, few natural product value chains function in an effective manner in Albania. They do not provide income levels and incentives for sustainable natural resource management required for sustainable livelihoods. Most forest products are traded informally and individually with marketing relations established at the local level. Substantial benefits can be gained through closer coordination and collaboration between producers of a product. Producers organised in groups are in a better position to receive services, share knowledge, certify products (if needed) and market their products. Through producer groups, larger quantities can be sold which may attract larger buyers and formalised supply arrangements with wholesaler/larger buyers may be negotiated. This helps to make the supply chain more efficient, to the benefit of all parties.

The Strengthening Communal Forestry II Project supported the formation of several producer groups and nut clubs to enhance the marketing of forest products. Through lobbying efforts of the National and Regional Federations of Forest and Pastures Users' Associations (also supported by the project), nut crops have also now been taken up by the Government of Albania as a key development priority. The project initiated a study on value chain development of nut crops. This study was used by the Ministry of Agriculture for preparing the national nuts strategy, as well as to inform the 2012 subsidy programme. The study highlighted the potential of forming producer groups/nut clubs as a key entry point to increase incomes from nut crops and rural development.

This paper provides information on the impacts and lessons learnt of the project on organising local forest users in producer groups and or nut clubs. It provides insights in the concepts, project activities, the outcomes and impacts, the challenges and opportunities. The stories function as a background document for learning and further use, capturing the results and experiences. Apart from this story, three other papers

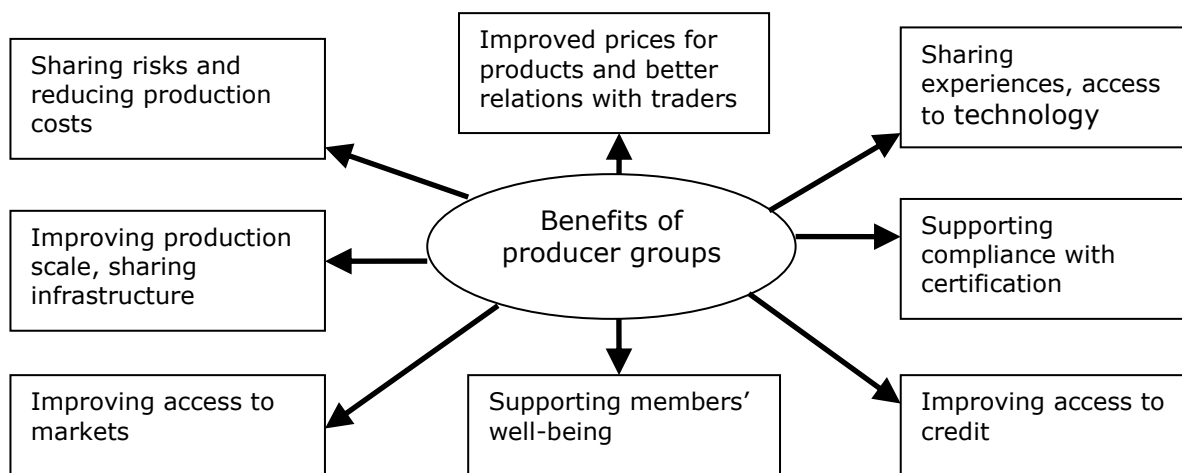
were prepared to share our stories of the project. These refer to the project's impact on: 1) Securing user rights over communal forests and pastures, 2) Sustainable communal forest management practices, and 3) Functioning of FPUAs and Federations.

2 Why forming producer groups and/or nut clubs?

In the introduction a few major reasons for forming (informal) producer groups are already described, but there are many more:

- Producer groups can create favourable conditions to improve production and business practices (economies of scale, increased bargaining power for better prices, reduced transaction costs, etc.), facilitate access to information and technology, and enhance access to financial services for production and trading
- Producer groups may reduce production costs, increase product quality, strengthen members' competitiveness, and promote improved market access
- Beside collaboration for production and trade of forest products; producer groups can provide other agricultural services for other products and or for other agricultural services
- Producer groups can work together for storage, drying and processing to improve marketing
- Producer groups can help to effectively participate in certification schemes
- Flexible: informal producer groups formed by voluntary agreement are self-managed and self-controlled; with simple procedures and management systems for the group that can ensure efficiency, equity and transparency
- Producers rely on each other which will help to create a strong community

Figure 1 gives an overview of the roles and advantages of producer groups.



(Adapted from Sustainable Commodity Assistance Network (SCAN), 2011)

Figure 1: Roles and benefits of producer groups

Although the formation of producer groups has many potential benefits, the groups won't function if members have unrealistic expectations about what the group can do for them and about their own contribution. The functioning and the successfulness of the groups depend on the members themselves.

3 Producer groups and nut clubs: Formation of groups

The Strengthening Communal Forestry II Project supported the formation of several producer groups and nut clubs with special attention for women. As a result 15 groups/ clubs have been established in the six project regions. Some groups are formally established and registered according to national regulations while other groups are informal and not officially registered. Formal groups are: the nut clubs in the regions of Diber and Kukes, two women associations respectively on forest fruits and hazelnuts in Diber region and the Rec nuts association in Shkrel commune in Shkoder region. The informal groups are loose groups of forest users who share a common interest in sharing information, learning and cooperation. The formal groups are involved in the collection of products from their members, marketing coordination and handling financial transactions. Table 1 gives an overview of the 15 established producer groups/ nut clubs.

Table 1: Overview of established and strengthened producer groups

Name of producer group/ nut clubs	Region	Commune	No of HH Members	Date established	% of women
Nut club (non-commercial)	Diber	Entire qark	1000	6.10. 2008	20%
Forest fruits association Staravec	Diber	Melan	15	Feb 2007	100%
Hazelnut association-Bugenec	Diber	Tomin	14	Nov 2010	100%
Producers group Gjinar	Elbasan	Gjinar	30	May 2012	80%
Nut group Gurakuq	Elbasan	Orenje	17	Sept. 2012	11%
Nuts producers group	Korça	Bucimas Commune	17	Oct 2011	18%
Nut producers group	Korça	Vithkuq Commune	11	Oct 2011	10%
Nuts producers group	Korça	Gora	22	Nov 2011	18%
Group of Tea and MAP producers Ligenas	Korça	Liqenas	30	22.02. 2012	51%
Group of mushrooms producers Ligenas	Korça	Liqenas	21	23 .02. 2012	40%
Nut producers group	Gjirokaster	Petran	24	05.04.2012	35%
Nut producers group	Gjirokaster	Picar	20	06.04.2012	25%
Nut club	Kukes	Malzi	15	Nov 2011	30%
Nut club	Kukes	Bujan	14	Nov 2011	40%
Rec Nuts Association	Shkoder	Shkrel	60	2004	50%

Some of the producer groups consist of women only. Non-wood Forest Products (NWFP) and/or the collection of nuts were identified as possible means to attract women's participation in forestry activities and to enhance women economic empowerment. Rural women are heavily dependent on forests. Surveys indicate that more than 60% of women are users of forests and pastures, of which 80% are active in NWFP production and collection activities. However, few women are directly engaged in trading these products. The project paid special attention to the women groups and supported them in product marketing and improving their market access. Apart from increasing household incomes, being part of a recognised group provided both confidence and social acceptance for women engaged in marketing activities.

The Strengthening Communal Forestry II project followed the following process in supporting the formation of producers' groups:

- Awareness and introduction meetings
- Setting up the organisational structure
- Business planning
- Capacity building

Awareness raising and introduction meetings

Project staff explained the roles and benefits of producer groups through organisation of village meetings to identify interest, but also stressed that the groups should be self-managed and self-controlled. It is vital that producers are clear about their own motivation for establishing, supporting and being part of a producers' group which may later evolve in a formally registered cooperative or association. Producers need to take up roles and responsibilities to make a producer groups work. At the start members need to invest some time on a voluntary basis.

The formation of producer groups should also reflect, culture, values and tradition. Agriculture in Albania used to be organised in centrally controlled structures called cooperatives during the socialist period until the 90's. Now, more than 20 years later, there is still resistance and suspicion to arrangements that promote closer cooperation and sharing between farmers. Farmers are particularly concerned about loss of financial independence and control. This has implications for the way groups are formed and the way relationships among producers are established as well as for ensuring a successful organisation.

Setting up the organisational structure

Project staff conducted an 'Options Appraisal' for local people interested to form a producer group. A range of organisational models (formal, as cooperatives or informal, as producers groups) were presented and villagers were supported to select the organisational model that suited their situation best. The model and structure selected (formal or informal) has also direct legal implications affecting the functioning and financial operation of the producers' organization.

Once the organisational model was agreed upon, the project supported local villagers to establish the structure of the producer organisation (Board, manager, finance, and other technical staff). Roles and responsibilities were presented, explained, discussed and agreed upon by all stakeholders. Consensus on the business idea and commercial basis of operation was fundamental for developing the structure of the producers groups/organisation, as it directly impacts the legal basis and relationships with group members, organisations and agencies. For example, relationships between the producer organisation and producers could be institutionalised through contracts or membership agreements. The organisational structure thus differs per location depending on the needs and interests of the stakeholders. For example, in Diber a nut club was established with more than 1000 members to facilitate information exchange, with the

management structure of the nut club embedded in the Regional Federation of Forest and Pastures Users' Association (FPUA). A similar structure was used in Kukës region, where the established nut clubs are managed by FPUAs- although they are much smaller in size than the nut club in Diber (about 15 households). Also some groups are legally registered as associations such as the women forest fruit association in Staravec and the women hazel nut association in Bugenec (both located in Diber region). Rec nut association in Shkrel commune located in Shkoder region is the third officially registered association (see table 2). Also in Liqenas Commune a producer organisation was established which functions as an umbrella organisation for a number of smaller producer groups (honey, NUTSs and medicinal plants) as pictured in figure 2.

Table 2: Different organisational structures of producer organisations

Producer organisation	Number	Area/Regions
Nuts Club (Structure within Regional Federation and FPUAs)	3	Diber, Kukës
Associations (legally registered)	3	Diber, Shkoder
Producers groups (informal)	11	Korça, Elbasan, Gjirokaster

PRODUCERS ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

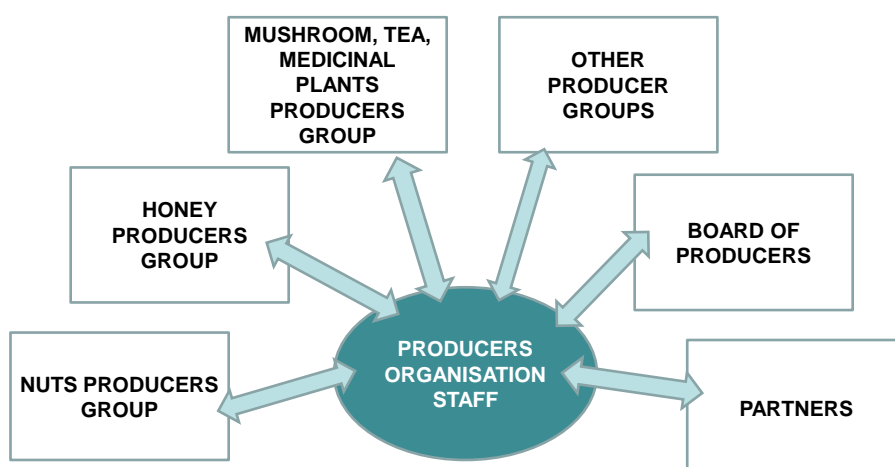


Figure 2: Structure of an umbrella producer organisation in Liqenas Commune

Trust among members of producer organisations is a prerequisite for the successfulness of the group. The project enhanced trust by using an inclusive approach and participatory methodologies. Project staff facilitated discussions asked probing questions, ensured reflections, fostered sharing of information, ideas, experience, expectations, vision and values. The focus was on direct needs and priorities of the local villagers in forming producer groups, rather than assumptions or generalisations. Different meetings were organised with producers groups to inform them and generate discussion on better coordination and organisation. This was important to build relationships and develop

trust essential for gaining commitment to contribute and support the development and functioning of the producers groups/ organisation.

Two-way communication is essential for the producer organizations to disseminate information to producers as well as to buyers and to receive information from them. Constant communication also builds trust within the members of the producer organisation and among other relevant stakeholders. The producer groups should provide added value to its members and good communication is required to know what is needed. Assessing producers’ needs, organising joint meetings, offering services according to producers’ needs and quality monitoring and support, are all part of maintaining relationships and building trust. This is an important component for operating a successful producers’ organisation. Therefore, the project supported producer groups to understand the possibilities of developing a proper communication system within their organization and with the market.

Business planning

A business plan is essential to guide the operations of the producer organisation. The project supported producer organisations in business planning in a participatory manner to ensure understanding of their business and ownership of the plan. The project focused on key areas of interest, market and management of the process and supported the preparation of 4 business plans. Business planning is very much about helping the producers groups to help set up self-controlled and self-managed groups. Business planning is also a tool for producer organizations (formal or informal) to monitor, learn and better understand their sector, markets for products and services. The process of formulating informed business plans calls for marketing research and collection of relevant information from different stakeholders. This process also fosters improved communication between the board and executive of the organizations and producers, which will inevitably lead better services and relations.

For the preparation of the business plans, of identified groups of producers, the project staff facilitated a (Political, Economic, Social and Technological (PEST) analysis. This tool helps to assess trends that affect the market in which producers’ organizations operate and how these trends might have an impact on the producer groups’ activities. See table 3.

Table 3: Schematic overview of the Political, Economic, Social and Technological (PEST) analysis tool

Political	Economic	Social	Technological
These can be political factors or policy decisions that affect the operating environment	These are issues that affect the purchasing power of consumers and other businesses	These are factors that affect customer needs and potential markets	These are innovative developments or trends that might affect markets
<i>Examples:</i> Tax Employment Environmental regulations Trade restrictions/tariffs Political stability Europe	<i>Examples:</i> Economic growth Interest rates Exchange rates Inflation Unemployment Supply/demand	<i>Examples:</i> Demographic and cultural changes Population growth rate Social attitudes Employment Environment	<i>Examples:</i> Research & development Automation Technology Innovation

Also marketing research is needed for the formulation of an informed business plans. In the pilot regions, the project supported producer organisations to collect relevant market information, such as:

- ✓ What are the characteristics of the products to promote and sell to consumers?
- ✓ Why will consumers buy producers' products?
- ✓ How many potential consumers are there for products or services?
- ✓ How will the producers groups reach them and what are good promotion strategies?
- ✓ What price could the producers groups sell their products for?

The final and crucial part of the business plan is the financial and marketing plan. The project supported producers groups to prepare an estimated operational budget. This financial plan will help to turn potential market opportunities into a commercial business realities.

Capacity building

Capacity building of producers is essential for the well-functioning of the producer organisations. For many villagers a change in attitude is required from just producing products for the market to producing according to market demands and operating on a commercial basis in competitive markets. Therefore, the project supported training and learning on leadership, commercial thinking and business skills. Capacity building of producers with the aim of further developing their skills on marketing, business development, financial management, product development, operational and human resources management is an ongoing process.

Capacity building for producers focused on improving quality & quantity and market awareness within their scope from production to point of sale in the supply chain. This included learning events on:

- ✓ Production: sustainable harvest, increasing productivity;
- ✓ Post-harvest handling: interventions to ensure quality and reduce wastage;
- ✓ Processing: simple steps to add value within their capacity (ability and resources);
- ✓ Packaging for trade: presentation to the next level that supports quality, consistency and longevity;
- ✓ Market awareness: understanding of end consumer and buyer demands and expectations;

At least 39 training and learning events were organised to support producer groups in which at least 1366 people (of which 68% women) participated. Apart from producers also representatives of Local Government Units (LGU), District Forest Services (DFS), Regional Federations and Forests and Pastures Users' Associations (FPUA) took part in the events. For a full list of the events see Appendix 1.

4 Producer groups and nut clubs: Production and post-harvest care

The Strengthening Communal Forestry II project supported the organization of producers for different forest commodities, such as: beekeepers and medicinal plants' collectors in Prespa National Park of the Korça Region, chestnuts producers in Shkodra and nut producers in the Diber region to form a nut club of producers under the umbrella of the Diber Regional Federation.

Economies of scale

Attention has focussed on promoting sustainable economic development, in particular those existing natural resource based income generating opportunities and livelihood strategies of the local inhabitants which are compatible with biodiversity conservation.

Support provided to increase production

Assessing the existing capacity, skills, experience and culture has been supported to get a broader understanding of where the PG needs to develop and strengthen in terms of expertise and a capacity development plan prepared. Support has been given to the producers to mountain tea and sage cultivation, grafting of nuts, thinning hazelnuts, forest cleaning, processing of fruits, post-harvest care of chestnuts, etc.

5 Producer group and nut clubs: Marketing and promotion

Marketing never stops. Producer groups must create relationships with the market (buyers), and constantly reassessing its demands and expectations. The project facilitated the formation of linkages between traders & buyers of forest products and producer groups by organising buyer-seller meetings with the aim of developing good business deals for both seller and buyer. These meetings helped to increase mutual understanding among producers and buyers. The meetings were also essential for the producers to better understand demands for quantity, quality, packaging and price. It increased the quantity of the sold products, in a good price and lowered costs (up to 15%).



Figure 3: Buyer's – Sellers meeting

Another result of the meetings is that producers understood the importance of having contracts. Furthermore, people could see the advantage of being represented by one legal person or agreed representative (as producers' organization) in their economic activities for the future. Two contracts as samples have been developed and agreed in Korça area, Ligenas Commune for medicinal plants and mountain tea. REC in North part of Albania, Shkodra Region, signed contracts with Italian buyers for chestnuts. During

the project period, a total of 18 meetings were organised with at least 1 in every region. In some cases the buyer seller meetings were combined with nut fairs or harvest fairs where also forest products were promoted. In both Diber and Shkoder fairs were organised every year. In Shkoder these fairs are part of the celebrations of Terra Madre day which falls on the 10th of December. Also fairs were organised in the regions of Elbasan and Korça. See figure 3.

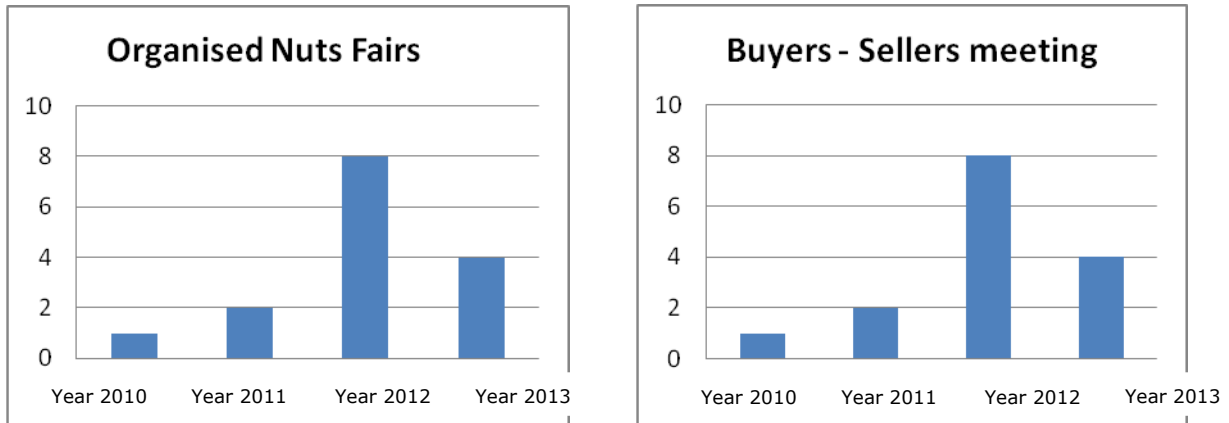


Figure 3: Number of organised nut fairs and buyers-sellers meetings during the project period

The local trade fairs were organised to encourage and expose producers and traders to marketing opportunities for forest products alongside other more established traders of other rural/agricultural products. Harvest festivals in Peshkopi and Shkoder, Regional fairs in Korça, and participation in “Terra Madre Day” in Turin, Italy, provided the opportunity for producers to directly experience market conditions. The focus of these events was celebrating for the good harvesting and promoting of regional products. The main forestry related products were: wall nuts, hazel nuts, chest nuts, processed forest fruits, medical/aromatic plants, sage seedlings and different traditional foods made with forest nuts. The producers mentioned that during this kind of events they sold everything they brought. It was a lesson learned for them, understanding the market, quantity, quality and the price they expect. A very good example was the opportunity that Rec association had by participating in Slow food Terra Madre international exhibition, signing the contracts with Italian partners.





6 Producer groups and nut clubs: Access to services

The producers have been assisted by the CNVP advisors to develop effective forest producer groups/organizations, reduce poverty and improve livelihoods of forest-dependent people:

- Encouraging knowledge sharing and increasing the visibility of forest producer groups in policymaking. Producers participated in the process for the development of the Communal Forest Strategic Planning in all pilot communes;



- Developing incentives to strengthen locally controlled forestry and facilitating networking among forest and producers organizations;

- Protecting forest tenure and users rights of local communities, removing regulatory barriers through participatory mapping process in the village level, securing access to support services, especially extension services;

- Potentially producers organizations receiving the information can provide in the future their members with greater access to financial services, such as affordable credit and insurance;

- Connecting forest producers to markets and services, including negotiation of fair market prices and provision of real-time market information;

- Participating to a national network of forest producer groups to influence policymaking and generate momentum for greater support.

7 Challenges and opportunities

The establishment of cooperatives is hindered not only by what was inherited from the Communist past but also by problems that emerged during the transition, most eminent are an inefficient banking system and the lack of experience in organizing cooperatives in the market economy. It can be assumed that the establishment of agricultural cooperatives will increase social cohesion as their membership will represent people with different educational background.

Apart from financial constraints, the establishment of cooperatives is also delayed by the lack of experience of farmers in organizing cooperatives in a market economy and the insufficient support provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and foreign donors. The inexperience of farmers was not confined to running a cooperative but included, for many, also basic knowledge of farming techniques.

Cooperatives can contribute to the re-evaluation and reorientation of professional capacities within the community. In order to reduce labour costs cooperatives will employ less experts and unskilled workers from outside the community. This means that all the human resources within the community have to be maximally employed increasing the opportunities for professional development of everyone involved.

By offering more employment opportunities, cooperatives help also to increase the productivity of the work of each farmer through the process of specialization. Instead of doing everything, as they usually do in family farms, farmers can be specialized in a specific works, based on their products, thus increasing their efficiency by doing what they can do best. This helps as well to improve the quality of expertise that individuals will be able to provide to the cooperative.



The experience in the forestry sector, indicate that women and men participate and benefit differently in forestry activities and development programmes and much work is needed to address issues of gender inequality. The women are active in cultivation and collection of forest products but our studies have indicated that women are the last to be asked in decision-making processes in local forestry and natural resources related institutions, which are largely dominated by men.

Few natural products are traded in formal markets and trade relations are usually at the local level. Common constraints and opportunities for trade in natural products, by the established producers groups, formal and informal associations are highlighted in the following table:

CONSTRAINS	OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Marketing is not well organized</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only verbal agreements - no supply contracts • Producers are not aware of marketing concepts • Low interest to cooperate with each other. • Producers are not organized and are often not interested to be organised (heritage of cooperatives) • Lack of quality management & assurance • Lack of internal regulation. • Poor infrastructure • Lack of trustworthy sustainable trade relations • Limited number of trade relations • Weak bargaining power of Producers • Producers are not aware of available price information • High costs with no efficiencies of scale of production and processing. 	<p>To better organise producers in clubs/producer groups and strengthening group in marketing, post-harvest care, development of market linkages, negotiation skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger demand than supply for certain products • Price information of agricultural products including available at agricultural extensions staff and by mobile phone • Seasonal selling of products at different market prices • Organisation of trade fairs and exhibitions to promote products • Certificate of origin and labelling/ branding of products to explore markets for organic products • Subsidy scheme of MAFCP • Development of new products and derivatives

8 Conclusions

Organization of producers groups in cooperative forms of production and marketing are considered most appropriate to overcome the problems of fragmentation in production, low level of technology and skills, and unsatisfactory quality of products to qualify for wider markets. Small in their size cooperatives can benefit from a simple process of decision making based on the principle "one member one vote". This is considered crucial for convincing farmers from the pilot regions, that these new forms of cooperatives are different from socialist cooperatives, as members will now have the power to take decisions.

Cooperatives are also believed to make most profit out of the increasing demand for local products, which 78 percent of consumers prefer to imports. As the domestic market is not yet saturated by domestic production, with 38 percent of agricultural productions imported, there is a good margin of profit for these cooperatives, once they are established.

CNVP through its heritage of SNV has a long-term commitment to supporting sustainable development in Albania. CNVP's network of offices is staffed with a combination of local and international experts, supporting local capacity development, working closely with local organisations.

Through implementation of natural resources sector development related projects and programmes, CNVP seeks complementarily with other project and programme where appropriate.

What we will bring: With the combined local and international capacity, experience and capability of the proposed team of experts, CNVP provides:

- ✓ **Understanding of the context** - The development of protected area management, forest and land use practices and rural development, its

importance for products & services and the relationship with different stakeholders;

- ✓ **Understanding of the situation** – Importance of protected areas in the region and their contribution to environmental services, the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in protected area management and the need to specify the impact on the environment;
- ✓ **Understanding of the resource** – Communal, private and State forest and pasture areas, agroforestry resources, forest practices and appropriate techniques applied;
- ✓ **Understanding of the process** – Increasing focus on environmental services and the contribution of forests to climate change, rural economic development, and the development process in the region with ongoing decentralisation of roles, responsibilities and rights;
- ✓ **Understanding of the players** – Albanian Forest Service, Ministries, local government, civil society, forest and pasture users/owners and organisations, producer groups, wider society;
- ✓ **Understanding of the goals** - sustainable local economic development based on multiple-objective and multiple-function protected area management, respecting international standards and conventions.

Appendix 1: Overview of relevant training and learning events

Learning event (name/ topic)	Project action no	Date	Location	Number of participants							
				LGU	FPUA	DFS	Reg. Fed.	Other	Total		Total
									men	women	
Stakeholder meeting on org of nut fair	2.2.1	Sep. 2012	Diber				2	11	9	4	13
Harvest feast – promotion of nut products	2.2	Oct. 2012	Diber	6	85	5	6	3	65	40	105
Exchange visit Diber-Korça on women producer groups	2.2	Nov. 2012	Diber		8		1			9	9
Training and awareness programme on producer group functioning	2.2	2012	Diber	6	35	3	3		8	39	47
Women group meeting in Zërqaq commune	2.2	Feb. 2013	Diber	2	12	1	2		4	13	17
Training on marketing Ulza	2.2	Feb. 2013	Diber	2	8	1	2		3	10	13
Meeting on preparation for fair Ulza	2.2	March 2013	Diber	2	6	1	2		2	9	11
Training on grafting to nut club members	2.1	March 2013	Diber	1	16	1	1		6	13	19
Training on forest fruits processing	2.2.4	April 2013	Diber	3	11	-	1		-	15	15
3 preparation meetings on celebration of St. Mark Day combined with a trade fair in Ulza	2.2.4	April 2013	Diber	2	6	-	1		2	7	9
Celebration St. Mark and trade fair in Ulza	2.2.4	April 2013	Diber	4	29	-	2		7	28	35
Training on medicinal plants	2.2.4	May 2013	Diber	2	20	-	1		3	20	23
Training on gender concepts	2.2/ 3.1.3	May 2013	Diber	2	34	2	2		4	36	40
Training and exchange visit with women core groups at Zërqaq commune	2.2.4	Aug 2013	Diber	3	7	-	2	28	6	34	40
Training prep for regional fair	2.2.4	Sep 2013	Diber	-	-	-	1	23		24	24
Total Diber				35	277	14	29	65	119	301	420
Training producer group in Gjinar	2.2.1	Jun. 2012	Elbasan	3	14	2	2	5	6	20	26
Exchange visit in Gjinar	2.2.1	Apr. 2013	Elbasan	3	3	1	3	2	7	5	12
Training producers group Gjinar	2.2.2	May 2013	Elbasan	5	17		3	5	8	22	30
Training producers group Orenje	2.2.2	March 2014	Elbasan		13	3	3	4	16	7	23
Total Elbasan				11	47	6	11	16	37	54	91
Training producers group on forest fire prevention	2.2.4	Jul. 2012	Liçenas Korça	2	21	5	2	0	7	23	30
Training producers group on forest fire prevention	2.2.4	Jul. 2012	Bucimas Korça	4	12	0	2	1	7	12	19
Sharing experiences on mountain tea cultivation	2.2.4	Nov. 2012	Korça		22				0	22	22
Training producers	2.2.2	Nov.	Liçenas	2	17	1	1	1	10	12	22

Learning event (name/ topic)	Project action no	Date	Location	Number of participants								
				LGU	FPUA	DFS	Reg. Fed.	Other	Total		Total	
									men	women		
groups on marketing, labelling and packaging	2.2.4	2012	Korça									
Women participation in fees and tariffs (Liqenas) Commune	2.2.4	Nov. 2011	Korça	11	1	0	0	1	0	13	13	
Producer fair in Dardha "Earth Day"	2.2.1 2.2.4	March 2013	Korça	2	19	4	2	6	5	28	33	
Gender property rights training	3.1.3 2.2.4	June 2013	Korça	31	82	3	12	10	34	104	138	
Management of the farm	2.2.4	Aug 2013	Korça Bucimas Pustec	11	39	4	2	2	11	47	58	
Gender property rights training	2.2.4	Jul 2013	Bucimas villages	6	43	0	2	0	5	46	51	
Fair bio products	2.2.4	Oct. 2013	Korça	0	20	1	1	6	10	18	28	
Training producers groups (training on tea cultivation)	2.2.4	Nov. 2013	Liqenas		10				0	10	10	
Training producers groups (Law on agri. Cooperation)	2.2.4	Nov. 2013	Liqenas	2	8				2	8	10	
Total Korça				71	294	18	24	27	91	343	434	
Training on business planning (Linked with nut activities)	2.2.4	March 2013	Kukes	2	45		3		29	21	50	
Training on business planning (Linked with nut activities)	2.2.4	Dec 2013	Kukes	1	8			11	8	12	20	
Total Kukes				3	53	-	3	11	37	33	70	
Sharing experiences on sage cultivation	2.2.4	Dec. 2012	G'kaster	4	21	0	1	1	10	17	27	
Gender Property Rights training	3.1.3 2.2.4	May / June 2013	G'kaster	1	13	0	1	2	2	15	17	
Training on coop. law	2.2.4	Nov. 2013	G'kaster	0	17	2	1	0	8	12	20	
Total Gjirokaster				5	51	2	3	3	20	44	64	
How to self-organize a trade exhibition	2.2.1 2.2.2	Dec, 2011	Shkoder					11 (nut club)	3	8	11	
Restoring abandoned and degraded forest areas through plantation of hazelnut trees.	2.2.1	02/04/ 2012	Shkoder	3	11	1	2		8	9	17	
Training on chestnut and hazelnuts grafting techniques, increasing productivity through improvement of species varieties.	2.2.1	5/4/ 2012	Shkoder	3	12	1	3		10	9	19	
Forest cleaning techniques tested for communal mixed forest areas. Species prioritisation and utilisation of harvested products.	2.2.1	28/4/ 2012 11/6/ 2012	Shkoder	3	25	1	4		32	30	62	
Training of Trainers at national level and FPUA-s on pre and post-harvest care in chestnut forest.	2.2.2	Sep 2012	Shkoder	3	26	2	17		27	21	48	
Training on women				2	18	1	2	1		24	24	

Learning event (name/ topic)	Project action no	Date	Location	Number of participants								
				LGU	FPUA	DFS	Reg. Fed.	Other	Total		Total	
									men	women		
participation in forest activities, issues for gender discrimination and sensitiveness	2.2.4	24/3/2012	Shkoder									
Training on farmer forest models as income generation opportunities	2.1.1	18/3/2013	Shkoder	2	11	1	3			11	6	17
Planting straw berries and other forest fruit species as models for income generation.	2.2.4	20/3/2013	Shkoder	2	20	1	3	1		8	19	27
Share experiences on nuts & sage cultivation in Shkoder	3.1.2. 2.2.1, 2.2.4	May 2013	Shkoder	2	8	1	1	2		9	5	14
Training on VCD women economic empowerment.	2.2.1	July 2013	Shkrel	2	25		2			16	13	29
Workshop and training on grafting and thinning techniques for hazelnut forests (Improving production VCD)	2.2.1	Aug 2013	Shkrel	2	15	1	1			11	8	19
Total Shkoder				24	171	10	38	15		135	152	287



Strengthening Sustainable Communal Forestry II is a three year programme to further strengthen the capacity of local forest and pasture user associations and local government units in particular, strengthening linkages between stakeholders for sustainable communal forestry and pasture management. It promotes improved decentralised decision making and planning in support of more inclusive local economic development. This includes better secured property rights and improving income generating opportunities for forest and pasture dependent rural households, with a strong focus on promoting gender equality of opportunity.

The project is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Water Administration, the National Federation of Forest & Pasture Users, and is co-financed by Swedish Development Cooperation and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through SNV Netherlands Development Organisation.

Fuqizimi I Qëndrueshëm i Pyjeve Komunale II është një program tre-vjeçar për forcimin e mëtejshëm të kapacitetit të shoqatave të përdoruesve lokalë të pyjeve dhe kullotave dhe njësive të qeverisjes vendore në veçanti, forcimi i lidhjeve ndërmjet aktorëve dhe grupeve të interesit për menaxhimin e qëndrueshem. te pyjeve dhe kullotave komunale. Ai promovon vendimmarrjen e decentralizuar dhe planifikimin e përmirësuar, në mbështetje të zhvillimit ekonomik lokal më përfshirës. Kjo përfshin të drejta më të sigurta mbi pronën dhe mundësi të përmirësuar për gjenerimin e të ardhurave për njerëzit që jetojnë në zonat rurale, me një focus të veçantë në promovimin e barazisë gjinore.

Projekti po zbatohet në bashkëpunim me Ministrinë e Mjedisit, Pyjeve dhe Administrimit të Ujrave, Federatën Kombëtare të Përdoruesve të Pyjeve dhe Kullotave Komunale dhe është bashkëfinancuar nga Agjencia Suedeze për Zhvillim dhe Ministria e Punëve të Jashtme të Hollandës përmes SNV Organizatës Hollandeze për Zhvillim.

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