



Managing Natural Resources in a Sustainable Manner for Rural Development in Kosovo

Anika Totojani*

The Agricultural University of Tirana, Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (IPGR), Albania

[*atotojani@ubt.edu.al](mailto:atotojani@ubt.edu.al); anikatotojani@yahoo.com

Introduction

- Kosovo has reformed the economy since the independency in 2008
- Showing willingness to be integrated politically & economically (EU)
- Is a rural country with fertile soils
- Agriculture sector is the major contributor to the GDP
- Wheat production for food and dairy farming → Agriculture Key Sectors
- Population engaged in agriculture > more than 1 million, out of 1.8 total population

Methods

- Research design : A case study
- Semi-structured interviews (SSIs) → 50 SSIs & questionnaire surveys
- Secondary data (Statistical data)

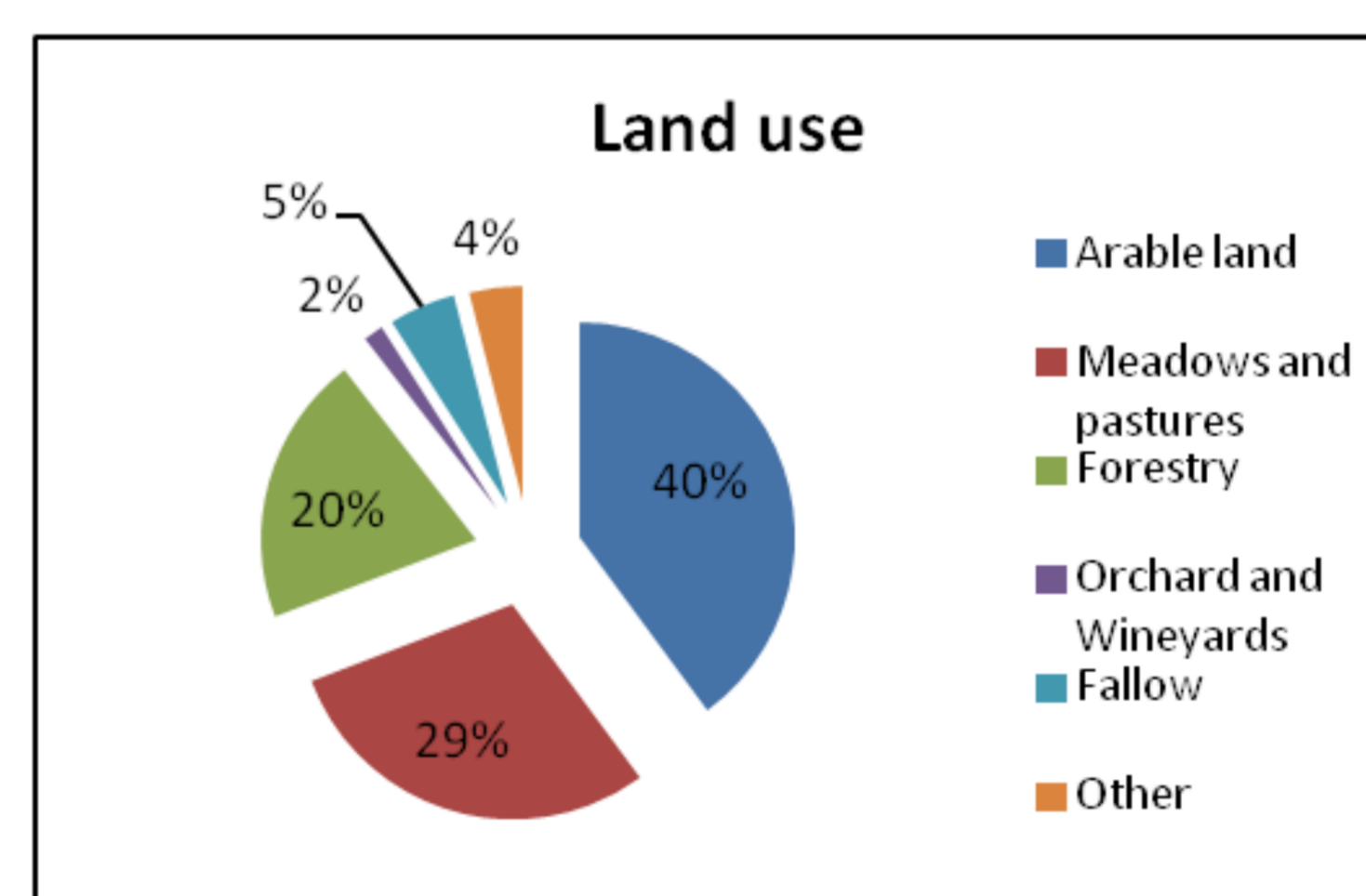
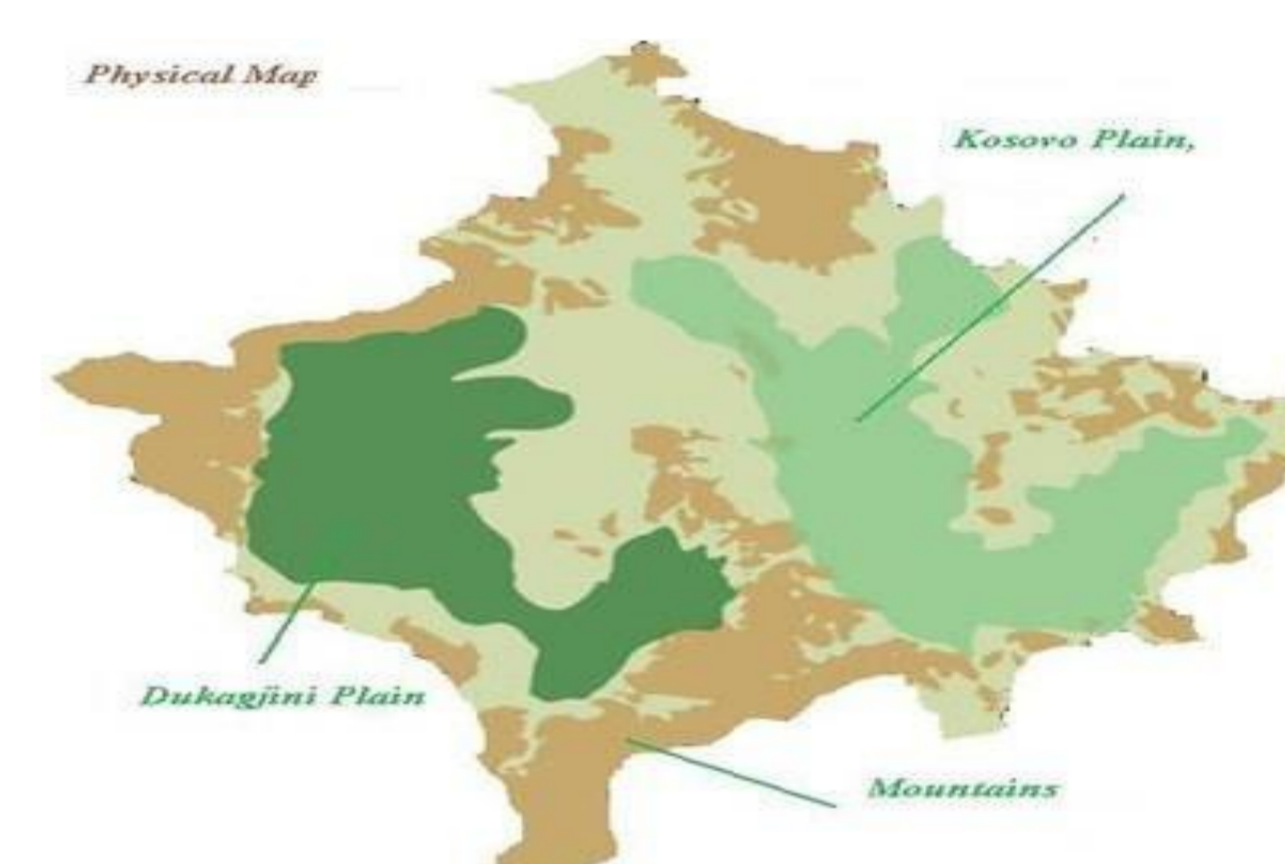
SSIs & questionnaire surveys

(Topics: actual farm production; previous production, financial aid, challenges faced in the sector ; farm registration, cooperation)

- The interviews lasted 1- 1½- hours (recorded & transcribed)

Results

- Farmers engage in cereal production
- Cultivate big parcels of land
- Wheat production followed by maize, barley, rye, oat etc
- Domestic production → does not fill out the domestic demand
- Imported grain does not fulfil the quality desired



Conclusions & Recommendations

- This study contributes to better manage natural resources in a particular country context
- Protect sectors considered strategic for the rural population
- Empirical studies are rare in such a context given the country obstacles in the region of the Western Balkans
- This study represents one of the first attempts to fill this gap
- Long process of recovering the rural economy
- Many farmers were excluded due to the informality, lack of registered farms
- This study highlights the need to further investigate the sectors with comparative advantage