



Sustainable Agriculture For Sustainable Balkans

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ADVOCATING TO A MORE DECENTRALIZED, PARTICIPATORY AND INTEGRATED FORMS OF WATER POLICY

PROJECT COORDINATOR:

**Agro-Environmental & Economic Management-Center, AEEMC
(Albania)**

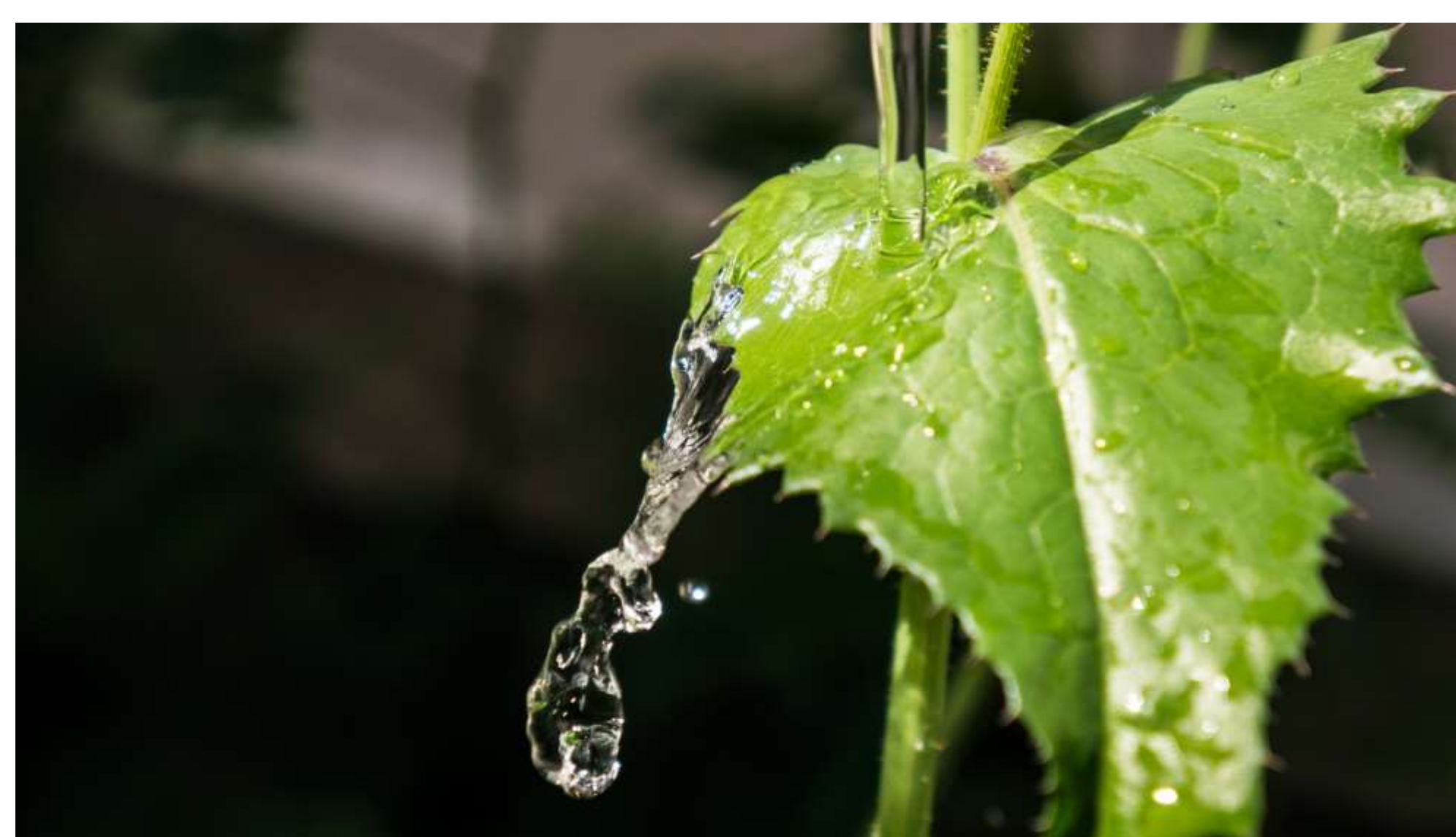


AIMS

The overall objective was to **increase efficiency of irrigation management system in Albania** through participation of NGOs and improved policy.

Specific objectives were to:

1. **Raise awareness of farmers and their organisations** on the need to improve the draft law on irrigation and drainage for ensuring an efficient and sustainable irrigation water management system.
2. **Build capacity of water user organisations** to participate in advocacy and to be the part of water management system.
3. **Advocate for the amendment of the draft law on irrigation and drainage**, in order to decentralize the management of the irrigation system and ensure the participation of water user organisations and other stakeholders.



ACTIVITIES

1.1 **Meetings** with stakeholders in order to inform them and discuss the current situation of the water management.

1.2 **Field surveys**, in five main agricultural regions of Albania

1.3 **Open Forums** in four municipalities, gathering water user organisations and Water Departments of the Municipalities

1.3 **Two round tables** with water user organisations, farmers and Water Departments of the Municipalities.

2.1 **Research work** for the best system and **three trainings for water user organisation's members**

2.2 **The publication of results** (brochures), press presentation in TVs, radio presentations.

3.1 **Advocacy training** for water user organisations, farmers and their organizations and volunteers

3.2 **Advocacy meetings** with government and local representatives aimed to amending and improving the draft Law on Irrigation and Drainage and draft National Irrigation and Drainage Strategy



Photographs: AEEMC, www.pixabay.com

RESULTS

1. The irrigation management system was restructured in a participatory manner and based on research, emphasizing cooperation between water user organisations, local and central authorities.
2. New Law on Irrigation and Drainage that includes water user organisations as representatives of farmers' interests was adopted by national authorities as a result of advocacy actions of this project.
3. New Draft National Irrigation and Drainage Strategy also included water user organisations as important actors in irrigation management.
4. Coalition of three water user organisations was created and conducted an advocacy campaign.
5. Water user organisations trained for better management of irrigation water and advocacy.

PROJECT "IN NUMBERS"

- 2 desk researches and 1 field survey conducted
- 250 people for 26 days interviewed in field surveys
- 4 open forums and 2 round tables organised
- 200 peoples' requests noted and discussed
- 1 policy paper on best policy solution for qualitative management of irrigation created
- 500 farmers (30% of them women), member of 4 water user organisations informed about the initiative for improving the strategy of irrigation and drainage
- 4 Newsletter sent to representatives of water user organisations, municipality and government officials.
- 300 people received a brochure "Irrigation management for sustainable agriculture"
- 100 people received a brochure: "Training as a tool to improve WUOs management"
- 150 people received a manual "Water quality of irrigation channels and its impact in the life of farmers"
- 100 leaflets distributed
- 2 TV documentaries produced and published

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

O.P.U.
NAUM - PANXHI
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PROJECT SUPPORTED BY



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