

Allegato II: visita tecnica a Tirana, Vlore e Saranda (luglio 2008)



BiomAlba: Analysis and study of the feasibility of a biomass chain in Albania

With the contribution of



Direzione Generale per la
Promozione e la Cooperazione Culturale

BiomAlba: Analysis and study of the feasibility of a biomass chain in Albania

Technical report 1 (Tr1)

Report of the study visit: 1-5 July 2008

(Kick of meeting: 3-4 July; Study visit: 1-5 July)

Project fiche	
Project title	BiomAlba: Analysis and study of the feasibility of a biomass chain in Albania
Rationale	<p>These last years Albania has gone through several energy shocks, which have negatively affected production activities. Since 1991 the noticeably increased consumption of electricity by consumers has led to the reduction of security of supply. The reduced cost of energy fixed by the state, has encouraged a large use of electric energy in all domestic activities, thus the demand and consumption has risen even if not sustained by an increase of production. As consequence the imports are increased considerably.</p> <p>In this framework energy production is not diversified and is guaranteed for the most by oil, hydroelectric energy and natural gas.</p> <p>Despite the fact that there exist just a few experiences, the renewable energies are a strategic sector also for Albania.</p>
General objective	The overall aim of BiomAlba ("BiomAlba: analysis and feasibility study of a biomass supply chain in Albania") is to promote, in accordance with the related EU policies, sustainable development in the Adriatic-Ionian countries with particular regard to energy issues, to environmental and health protection, and to the awareness of individuals and enterprises. Two elements of particular importance for the achievement of this objective are: a) the reduction of dependency from imported fossil energies through a better use of local resources, b) the reduction of the environmental impact of combustion processes.
Partners of the project	University of Bologna-Department of Agricultural Economics and Engineering, Italy Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania National Agency of Natural Resources, Albania Association of Olive Oil Producers of Albania (External Observer)
Donors	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy CEI – Central European Initiative Ministry of Economy, Albania

Study visit schedule	
	Activity
<u>DAY1</u> (Tue, July 1)	18.00 Arrival in Tirana 20.30 Dinner at the Sky Tower (Prof. Ciani, Prof. Sulce, Dr. Kullaj, Dr. Vittuari)
<u>DAY 2</u> (Wed, July 2)	7.00 – 18.00 Visit to olive oil production lines in Tirana, Lushnje, Vlora and Saranda
<u>DAY 3</u> (Thu, July 3)	8.00-11.00 Kick of meeting I (partner and project presentation) 11.00-19.00 Visit to olive oil production on Himara region and return to Tirana
<u>DAY 4</u> (Fri, July 4)	8:30 Meeting at the AUT: Rector of AUT, Prof. Ciani, project partners 10:30 Visit to Olive Oil Producers Association 14.30-18.00 Kick of meeting II (project discussion; administrative issues, Additional issues (Tempus project)
<u>DAY 5</u> (Sat, July 5)	Departure

DAY 1 (July 1st)

Dinner at the Sky Tower

Participants:

Adriano Ciani- *Scientific Advisor of the Italian Embassy in Tirana*

Sulejman Sulçe – *Agricultural University of Tirana*

Matteo Vittuari – *University of Bologna*

Endrit Kullaj – *Agricultural University of Tirana*

During the dinner the objectives of the project and the main activities have been presented to Prof. A. Ciani who has expressed his consideration suggesting some additional activities and outcomes.

DAY 2 (July 2nd)

Field Visit to olive oil mills in Myzeqe and in the coastal line between Vlora and Saranda

Participants:

Sulejman Sulçe – *Agricultural University of Tirana*

Endrit Kullaj – *Agricultural University of Tirana*

Fatmir Guri – *Agricultural University of Tirana*

Piro Mitrushi – *National Agency of Natural Resources*

Matteo Vittuari – *University of Bologna*

Rovena Preka – *University of Bologna*

7.30: First meeting between the Italian and the Albanian teams. Departure from Tirana for the central and southern Albania. The first part of the trip has been the highway to Durres and still ahead in the region of Lushnje (Myzeqe). This region is one of the most actives in the sector of agriculture as witnessed by the numerous greenhouses located in the plain. Overall the region presents many of the characteristic features of the Albanian agriculture.

The first stop has been at a farm with a large greenhouse in the region of Lushnje. Overall the region presents a total surface of greenhouses (focused on vegetables production) of about 400 ha. The greenhouse is rather large (30ha) according to the average Albanian farm and part of the production (mainly vegetables) is exported in Italy where they have an advantage in time since they anticipate the production of about two weeks. The greenhouse is heated with an oil fuelled boiler while the straw produced in the farm is generally thrown away.

Although, according to the farmer's opinion, some farms nearby use straw to fuel the boiler.

Proceeding with the trip towards the South, Vlora has been reached. Here, an **olive oil producer (Mr. Lulzim Kapllani)** indicated by the Association of Olive Oil Producers, has been waiting for the team to show his oil mill.

Mr. Lulzim Kapllani is conscious and informed on the other realities of oil production in southern Europe, mainly in Italy. He produces olive oil and uses his private channels to sell the products. He confides almost totally in the fidelity and the habitual clients.

The oil mill has a discreet dimension and when the working season comes, 15 people are employed. He has no all-year employees but nevertheless tries to keep a relation by giving to them the priority of employment in the following seasons.

The most important element of this oil mill is the boiler he uses. The boiler burns marc of olives*. Almost 60 per cent of the total product becomes marc and just around 5 per cent (of the marc) is used for the boiler. There is not a commercial use of the marc since most of it is thrown away and just a little part is given (for few money) to pizza makers or other people that use it for the ovens.

Going ahead on the trip along the Ionian seaside where the olive trees are mostly concentrated, a stop has been done to another oil mil. The information obtained from this **second olive oil producer** has been almost the same regarding the percentage of the marc produced from the total product and the destination of the marc (thrown away or given to other people for the oven).

The first visit confirmed the hypothesis that there is basically no market for the marc since until now only a small minority of producers has used fuel boilers for the production of thermal or (even less) electric energy.

21.00. Arrival to Saranda. Dinner in Saranda.

DAY 3 (July 3rd)

“Kick of Meeting (KoM)”

Participants:

Sulejman Sulçe – Agricultural University of Tirana
Endrit Kullaj – Agricultural University of Tirana
Fatmir Guri – Agricultural University of Tirana
Piro Mitrushi – National Agency of Natural Resources
Matteo Vittuari – University of Bologna
Rovena Preka – University of Bologna

7.30 a.m.: kick off meeting of the project.

a. Partner presentation

Dr. Matteo Vittuari has presented the Department of Agricultural Economic and Engineering (DEIAGRA) and has provided an overall description of the project activities going through all the different components, emphasizing the possible contributions of the (DEIAGRA) to the project.

Prof. Sulejman Sulçe has presented the Agricultural University of Tirana, while Eng. Piro Mitrushi has presented the National Agency of Natural Resources.

b. Division of the responsibilities

The main aim of the kick off meeting has been the revision of the division of the responsibilities on the different tasks. According to the outcomes of the KoM the division of the parts has been the following:

* Marc is the byproduct of the olives.

Component n.1: Definition of the general framework of reference

Activity	Responsible partner
Overall responsibility	Agricultural University of Tirana
Task 1.1 General analysis of the Albanian institutional and economic context, with particular attention to the agricultural and energetic field.	National Agency of Natural Resources + Agricultural University of Tirana
Task 1.2 General analysis of the agricultural, energy and environmental policies in Albania focusing on the development of renewable energy resources.	Agricultural University of Tirana
Task 1.3 Comparative evaluation of the current and perspective situation in Albania, Italy (Emilia Romagna Region as case-study) and Eastern Adriatic Countries (EAC)	University of Bologna

Component n. 2: Feasibility study of the biomass supply

Activity	Responsible partner
Overall responsibility	University of Bologna
Task 2.1 Detailed analysis of the energy system, which is functioning currently at least in two prefectures (qark), in Albania.	National Agency of Natural Resources + Agricultural University of Tirana
Task 2.2 The potentiality of the biomass energy source will be evaluated with particular reference to the chosen regions. The use of this source will be considered as primary one for the production of thermo-energy (and eventually electric energy) according to the correspondence with its clearly identified final use.	National Agency of Natural Resources + Agricultural University of Tirana
Task 2.3 Economic and social feasibility: logistical constraints; potential market effects; contracting opportunities between producers and the energy industry; public support policies; preliminary assessment of farmers' response; evaluation of potential effects on rural development and rural areas.	University of Bologna
Task 2.4 Individuation, analysis and characterization of the different selected biomass.	University of Bologna
Task 2.5 Connection to the BiomAdria Project	University of Bologna

Component n.3. Training activities and capacity building

Activity	Responsible partner
Overall responsibility	University of Bologna + Agricultural University of Tirana
Task 3.1 Dissemination of the results obtained by the Project and promotion of the identified activities as the natural follow-on of the performed activities;	University of Bologna + Agricultural University of Tirana
Task 3.2 Exchange of information, procedures and methodologies at the local, national and regional level	National Agency of Natural Resources + Agricultural University of Tirana
Task 3.3 Exchange of researchers aiming to a reciprocal transfer of know-how	University of Bologna + Agricultural University of Tirana
Task 3.4 Identification of the enterprises potentially interested to the sector, organization of meetings and eventual identification of a second, and more operative, phase of the project;	National Agency of Natural Resources + Agricultural University of Tirana + University of Bologna
Task 3.5 Awareness of the population of the regions of reference; information on economic opportunities connected to the biomass chain, dissemination of good energy practices.	National Agency of Natural Resources + Agricultural University of Tirana
Task 3.6 Exchange of know-how and scientific, technological and training experiences between the Universities and the Research and Development Centres. Organization of a course aimed to offer a deep analysis of the economical, social and technological aspects related to the planning, functioning, and management of a bioenergy supply chain. At the end of the Course the participants will have a stronger background on bioenergy economics and on sustainable technological solutions, moreover they will have achieved appropriate methodological tools for the analysis of the bioenergy supply chain.	University of Bologna
Task 3.7 Organization of a final Conference with institutional, industrial and scientific Albanian and Italian operators.	University of Bologna + Agricultural University of Tirana

Component n.4. Monitoring and management

Activity	Responsible partner
Overall responsibility	University of Bologna
Task 4.1 Identification of a Board of experts (BE) set up by representatives provided by the respective Organizations and External Experts. The presence of the BE intends to guarantee: 1) a more effective monitoring and a more reliable evaluation of the project; 2) identification of possible synergies with the project BiomAdria; 3) a regional “Adriatic Ionian” perspective.	University of Bologna
Task 4.2 Project management. The management component is aimed to guarantee an overall coordination among the different components and a correct financial management of the project.	University of Bologna

c. Additional issues

Besides the partners presentation and the division of the responsibilities the following decisions has been taken:

- a logo of the project has been selected;
- a website of the Project is to be set up;

After finishing this session, the road back to Tirana was passing from Gjirokastra where several oil wells are all around the road, some of which are still in function.

Arrival to Tirana at 19.00.

DAY 4 (July 4th)

a. Meeting at the Agricultural University of Tirana.

Participants:

Fatos Harizaj – Rector of the Agricultural University of Tirana,
Adriano Ciani – Scientific director of the Italian Embassy in Abania,
Sulejman Sulçe – Agricultural University of Tirana
Endrit Kullaj – Agricultural University of Tirana
Matteo Vittuari – University of Bologna
Rovena Preka – University of Bologna

The main argument of the meeting has been the project, its activities and its possible follow on. Prof. A. Ciani has emphasized that the commercial office of the Italian Embassy has shown interest on the project and that moreover there is a possibility to gather representatives from the ministries of Economy, Finance and Agriculture in a meeting in October in order to discuss about the outcomes and the future perspectives of the project.

Each of the participants in the meeting have shown their total willingness and their availability to reach good results for the BiomAlba project.

b. Visit to two olive oil mills in the hills around Tirana

Participants:

Endrit Kullaj – Agricultural University of Tirana

Matteo Vittuari –University of Bologna

Rovena Preka – University of Bologna

Valentina Postoli – Head of the Association of Olive Oil Producers of Albania

Meeting with Mr. **Shpresa Shkalla**, one of the main producers of olive oil in the area and visit to two oil mills which are located in the hills near Tirana, another place that is rich with olive trees. The information on the olive marc is always almost the same as the other oil mills already visited: same percentages and same not-market situations.

The Association of the Olive Oil Producers is strongly interested on maintaining the relationship with the parts of the Project and has a good will to collaborate with it. This association covers almost 80 per cent of all olive oil producers of Albania.

DAY 5 (July 5th)

Departure.