

# Farm classification in Kosovo based on agri-economic criteria

Burim BYTYÇI, Halim GJERGJIZI

University of Prishtina, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary, Bill Clinton Boulevard NN, 10000 Prishtina, Kosovo,  
(e-mail: burimbytyqi4@gmail.com)

## Abstract

The aim of this study is to identify classification of farms, based on agro-economic criteria, as well as the process of developing their transition from a self sustainable farm, in progressive steps further, seeing that these progressive steps, faced with various obstacles, taking into consideration employment characteristics in a family farm, employment level through various sector, and agriculture and livestock production. Results show that this represents an innovative approach to farmers in principle models of sustainable development, to develop integrated systems and strengthen agricultural value chains, then a better access to markets, which generates positive impacts on their livelihoods.

Key words: farm classification, employment characteristics and its levels through various sectors, agriculture and livestock production, market type

## Introduction

Kosovo is an agricultural country where 61% of the population lives in rural areas, while 53% of the total area of its territory is arable. It is worth to mention that most of the farms are oriented within the household, i.e. approximately 98% are small family farms and registration of surfaces based on the average land available for agriculture, the household is less than 1.4 ha. Inside, most of the parcels of land are about 1 ha and that half of households have less than 0.65 ha, causing them to be used only for living and not for other commercial purposes. As for the methodology of the paper during the process of data collection, were made; the first direct observation facilities and processes, and the results obtained during the research are presented through SPSS (Statistical Program for Social Sciences). Results shows that the majority of rural households in Kosovo still lives in extended families form and there is a significant variation between the female and the male in terms of involvement in work. Although mostly farm families were interviewed, however, the employment rate ranged across other parts such as the family enterprise, off farm and remittances. Results also show that the sales of agriculture products for the same year is much less in compare with the total value of agricultre products because the other part they use for self consumption and this is almost same with livestock production as well.<sup>1</sup>

## Materials and methods

As for the methodology, is prepared a number of methods and tools to carry out the study. During the review of paper to get information through formal and informal approaches are used with key informant such as; Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD). Around 80 occasional farmers were interviewed in five regions of Kosovo. During the process of data collection, were made; the first direct observation facilities, processes, relationships with others stakeholders. The results obtained during the research are presented in this paper; through Microsoft Office Excel 2007 program and data processed through. In this program is used descriptive and frequency analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> Prof. Ass. Dr. Halim Gjergjizi. 2010. *Agricultural Farm Management*, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary.

## Results and discussion

Thanks to the cooperation between different actors and enabling environment, research results have been achievable. Actors who belonged to different sectors and in different roles, who define their engagement on these farms, their relationships, connections and interactions with each other, have provided a clear picture regarding operations through their current holdings.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of employment characteristics in a family farm

Family farms in working age	N	Min	Max	Average	Standard deviation
Number of family members	80	5	24	7.71	3.917
Male	80	1	13	4.34	2.267
Female	80	1	8	3.25	1.248

Table one, shows that the majority of rural households in Kosovo still lives in extended families form about 7.71 members. While on working-age, males in average are recorded 4:34 and 3:25 female employees as family members either in agricultural activities and non-agricultural, national and abroad. Results in this table show that there is a significant variation between the female and the male in terms of involvement in work, whether on the farm, family enterprise, off-farm jobs and / or abroad. Men have a tendency to higher involvement in employment compared to women.

While the table two shows that rural households in Kosovo are more employed on farms, with average 2.65 members. Although mostly farm families were interviewed, however, the employment rate ranged across other parts such as the family enterprise in which there is an average of about 4:33 employed off-farm jobs (non-agricultural activities) 1.89, as well as employees 1.67 abroad with employment cases.<sup>2</sup>

Table 2. Involvement of employment level through various sectors

Family members employed through sectors	No.	Min	Max	Average	Standard deviation
Farm	78	1	8	2.65	1.193
Family enterprise	3	2	6	4.33	2.082
Off farm	77	1	5	1.89	1.066
Remitances	42	1	4	1.67	0.902

In the above mentioned table is specified in this way because not all farm families depend solely on revenues which come from their agricultural farms, because there is still lacks comprehensive meeting the needs of agriculture, such as lack of training, lack of transparent support, high production costs, lack of placement of products on the market for the products which they cultivate etc. Therefore, in order to increase participation required of their budget, these families are forced to work well in other potential sectors.

<sup>2</sup> Hamid El Bilal, IAMB-Italy. 2011. *Farming systems and poverty-improving farmers' livelihoods in a changing world.*

Table 3. Statistic descriptive about agriculture products value

Agriculture products, 2012	N	Min (€)	Max (€)	Average (€)
Value of agriculture products	80	80	63000	5039.74
Sales with wheat	47	200	25000	1593.23
Sales with corn	21	100	2606	848.29
Sales with straw	9	350	2100	722.22
Sales with apples	4	2000	4500	2625.00
Sales with vegetables	10	600	36000	6793.80
Sales with grapes	2	1700	2300	2000.00
Sales with seedlings	1	20200	20200	20200.00
Sales with honey	1	4550	4550	4550.00
Values of agriculture products sold in trade, 2012	56	300	56200	4074.57

Table three describes analyses of agriculture products. From the total number of agriculture products, from the table shows that the value of agriculture products researched is in average 5039.74 euro, from this in average 1593.23 euro of the incomes from the sales of wheat come, 848.29 euro from corn, 722.22 euro from straw, then 2625.00 euro from apples, 6793.80 vegetables, 2000.00 euro from grape, 2.02E4 euro from seedlings and 4550.00 euro from the honey. All this tells that the sales of agriculture products for the same year is much less 4074.57 euro in compare with the total value of agricultre products because of the other part they use it for self consumption.<sup>3</sup>

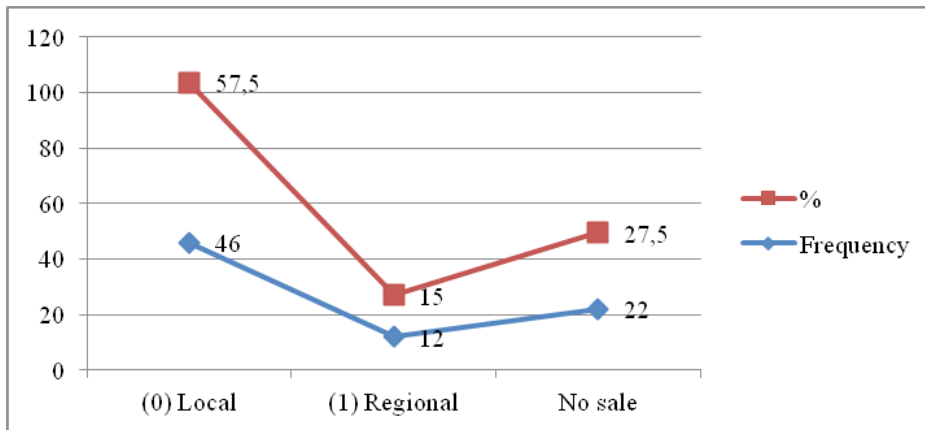


Figure 1. Market type for agricultural crops

Statistical analysis shows that the type of market on farms, to a large extent belongs to the local type (0) to about 57.5% in comparison with regional type (1) with a percentage of about 15.0%. The table also shows that the paper made with 80 farms, only 46 of them have declared that they sell their products in the local market, while 12 of them sell to the regional market, but 22 of them do not sell products, but only for their own consumption.

<sup>3</sup> Gjergjizi, H. 2013. *Model Farm and Agribusiness*, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary.

Table 4. Descriptive statistics of livestock production

Livestock value, 2012 (€)	N	Min (€)	Max (€)	Average (€)
Values of dairy cultures, 2012	72	860	35000	6854.97
Sales of cows	7	700	2500	1135.71
Sales of calf	58	350	3500	946.03
Sales of lambs	1	7000	7000	7000.00
Sales of milk	29	200	18000	3358.62
Sales of curd	10	300	5310	2107.40
Sales of cheese	11	120	5190	1198.18
Dairy cultures value sold in trade, 2012	65	350	21500	3496.43

Table four describe analyze of farming culture value. From the total number only seven of those families sales cow, 58 calves 946.03 euro, only one with sales of lambs 7000.00 euro, 29 with milk production 3358.62 euro, ten from those with by-products of milk such as; cottage cheese 210.40euro and with cheese 1198.18 euro.

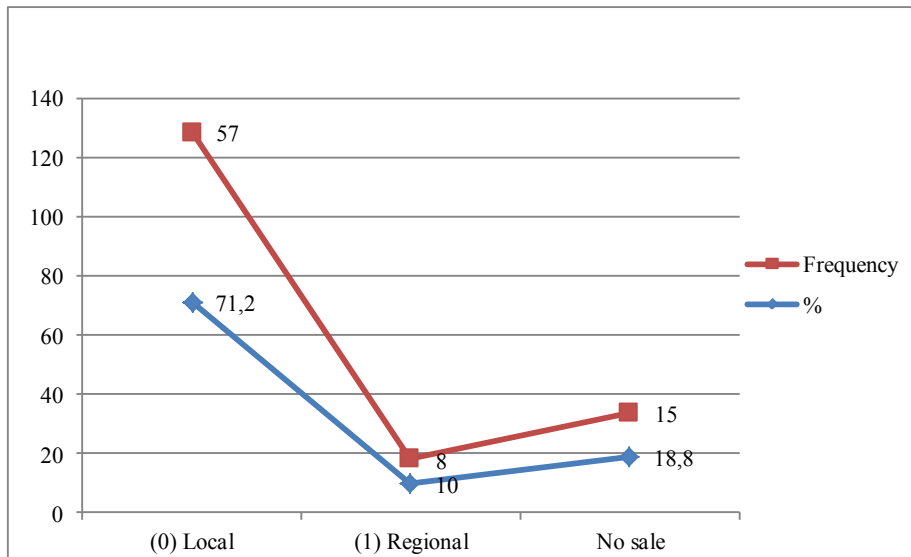


Figure 2. Market type of livestock

Statistical analysis shows that the type of market in livestock belongs to a large extent local type (0) with approximately 71.2% compared with regional type (1) with an estimated 10.0%. From this only 57 of them have stated that they sell their products in the local market, eight of them in the regional market, but 15 of them do not sell products, but hold only for own consumption.

## Conclusion

From the research conducted it can be concluded that family farms in Kosovo have some implications, such as; Majority of rural households in Kosovo still lives in extended families. Results show that there is a significant variation between the female and the male in terms of involvement in work, whether on the farm, family enterprise, off-farm jobs and / or abroad. Men have a tendency to higher involvement in employment compared to women. Rural households in Kosovo are more employed on farms. Although mostly farm families were interviewed, however, the employment rate ranged across other parts such as the family enterprise, off-farm jobs (non-agricultural activities) and remittances. Therefore, in order to increase the participation of the necessary budget, these families are forced to work in other potential sectors as well. As for the value of crops not all products are sold in the market, but a substantial part of their use is for own consumption, and same is with livestock production as well. Statistical analysis shows that the market type of agricultural products and livestock production to a large extent belongs to the local type in comparison with regional type, but some of them do not sell products, but hold only for their own consumption.<sup>4</sup>

## Acknowledgments

Authors are thankful to the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for their support and suggestions related to the processing of data in statistical programs.

Kosovo farmers to be competitive in domestic and foreign market should be specialized in the production of certain products. In order to minimize production costs, to produce higher quality products, and increase the amount of production and their competition in the market will be strengthened by increasing the volume of sales of their products. Such models can be for instance regional production livestock products together with its derivatives, then regionalization of horticultures, grapes, fruit, etc. This makes that with the regionalism of these crops, farmers to become more competitive to products which are largely imported into the country. Ministry of Agriculture should provide farmers access to capital, agricultural credit, subventions, access to knowledge and extension services.

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<sup>4</sup>Jules N. Pretty, Earthscan. 1991. *Regenerating Agriculture – Policies and Practices for Sustainability and Self-Reliance*.