



BEGINNING FARMER EXTENSION

2nd Meeting

Kalamata, Greece

Feb. 8th - 11th , 2011

2nd WORKSHOP REPORT

The second meeting of “BEFARMEX Project” took place in the city of Kalamata, Greece aprox. 250 klm South-West of the city of Athens.

The meeting was held from 8th to 11th of Feb. 2011.

The participants in this 2nd mobility where twenty three (23) in total and more analytically where from the following countries:

| COUNTRY | NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| TURKEY | 6 |
| ROMANIA | 8 |
| ITALY | 4 |
| SPAIN | 2 |
| GREECE | 3 |
| TOTAL | 23 |

During he **first day**, Feb. 8th , which was the date of arrival a brief tour in the city of Athens took place. Visit Acropolis and the area around, Plaka and Monastirak, where part of the tour.

In this activity, 6 persons from the Turkish team where able to participate, due to early arrival.

During the **second day**, Feb. 9th, all participants were in the meeting room of KEK AIAS in the village of Mikromani, approx. 5 km outside the very city centre of Kalamata.

During the meeting which held between 09.00 am to 17.00 pm various managerial and technical aspects of the Befarmex Project were discussed such as the work packages, the formation of the questionnaire for the farmers and other interest groups. (For more details the "Minutes" of the 2nd meeting are also available with precise details).

Furthermore, during the first day all participants had the chance to participate in a study visit to an artichoke farm and an artichoke factory.

During the visit an official tour took place with an expert who explained in depth all aspects for farming the artichoke, packaging of the artichoke as well as other technical details about cultivation, the use of fertilizers, economical and cost issues and so on.

The highlight of the conclusions of this study visit was that cultivation of artichoke plant is indeed profitable but after a long period of time, since the artichoke is more productive as it becomes aged, usually more than 5 to 10 years.



During the **third day** Feb. 10th, three study visits were held. In specific:

a) Study visit to olive/olive oil and vinegar production outside the city of Kalamata.

The whole region around Kalamata which is the Messinia region, is a massive producer of olives but more especially for olive oil. Participants had a chance to have a guided tour with experts within the Production area. Details about the production, packaging and distribution of olive oil, olives and vinegar were given in this study visit. From an educational point of view this study visit was beneficial for those who wish to have a factory of their own packaging and exporting olive oil, olives and vinegar to other countries.

The highlight of the visit was firstly the machinery used in all steps of the production and the packaging and secondly the hygiene precautions taken both for employees/workers and also for

the visitors of the installation. Such precautions secure at the maximum the quality of the final outcome/ product which aims directly to the consumer.



b) Study visit to sheep pen outside of the city of Kalamata

This study visit has given a chance to the participants to view a sheep pen and how this activity combined with most of the agricultural farming. In fact, in Greece most farmers have their own sheep, even in a small number which partially assists their farming income.

The high light of this visit was the industrialized way of milking the sheep in a sheep pen that is considered small to medium size.

Last but not least, it has to be taken under consideration that milk from sheep is equally popular to the Greek market as yogurt from sheep.



c) Study visit to biological olive trees' farm outside of the city of Kalamata

The visit in this farm although had nor visual either tangible impact on potential farmers of olive trees, has given to the participants a chance to view a plantation of olive trees farm that can produce biological olives and olive oil with low cost and without use of fertilizers.

During the **fourth day** Feb. 11th, which was the date of departure, due to late departure of that day of some participants, a chance was given to the Turkish and Spanish team, on the way to Athens, to visit a tourism developed area, the city of Nafplion aprox. 150 klm south of Athens. In Nafplion's inhabitants gain their income both as farmers and working in small & medium enterprises of the local tourism industry.