

Greenhouse projects to generate incomes for minority communities in Kosovo



CSP works to establish a market brokers network with collection points where the producers can concentrate production in order to access the main markets in Kosovo

In May 2005, the IOM Community Stabilization Programme (CSP) launched a pilot project to enhance the production of vegetables in the main targeted minority communities in Kosovo.

The green houses project has been implemented in three phases, consisting of the:

- Selection of dedicated and skilled proponents and training in greenhouse production, in addition to training in business planning and management.
- Provision and installation of the greenhouses structures, seeds, and chemical protection;
- Field monitoring and on-site technical advice on the progress of production.

The training lasted four days and was provided by a prominent agricultural engineer contracted specifically for this pilot project. During two field monitoring visits, the beneficiaries were advised how to improve their greenhouse techniques with the goal of increasing their production.

There are 30 greenhouses in the project's production sites throughout Kosovo. This CSP intervention is justified by the fact that Kosovo is predominantly an agricultural-based economy and there is steady demand in the market for fresh vegetables that are actually imported from Greece, Macedonia, and Turkey, although it is possible to

grow these vegetables locally. In total, Kosovo imports 70% of its vegetable and fruits. This local initiative will reduce this figure, while generating profits and income for residents of minority communities.

The size of the greenhouses (most are between 6x15 and 6x30 and as large as to 8x40 and 8x50 meters) was calculated taking in consideration the available space and potential to generate income. For example, a 8x50m large greenhouse has the capacity to produce as much as 4.5 tons of tomatoes per season for a profit of more than 1,100 € in the local market.

Also contributing to the rehabilitation of agriculture production in minority communities, CSP will work to establish a market brokers network with collection points where the producers can concentrate production in order to access the main markets in Kosovo.