

FONCIMED. Réseau CIHEAM-INRA de recherche et d'échange sur le foncier méditerranéen.
10ème Séminaire Annuel "*Le foncier, un actif du développement territorial et de la durabilité des communautés rurales?*", Thessaloniki, 2-4 Novembre 2017

FONCIMED. Network CIHEAM-INRA for research and exchange on Mediterranean land tenure.
10th Annual Seminar "*Land tenure as an asset for territorial development and the sustainability of rural communities?*", Thessaloniki, 2-4 November 2017

Séance 3- Le foncier comme bien commun

From total State to Anarchical Market?

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Contextualization of the problem and main objectives of the communication

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) is an important sector of the agrarian economy today in Albania, counting for approximately M\$25 exports, 60 000 harvesters and collectors, various localized value chains and first transformation industries. Wild MAPs collection mainly occurs in common mountainous pastures and forest lands,. The real economic take off and massive collection the resource occurred during the communist regime, to fulfil the need of export cash-flows. It was a total State organized system structured by cooperatives and State farms. After the regime collapse, the MAPs sector was basically driven by commercial forces and markets. This drastic change is, for the theory of collective action of great interest, because neither one system nor the other totally abolished the existence of the commons as commons.

Methodology and sources used

This paper is based on a twofold methodology. First an enquiry based on original archives from the communist regime period (and secondary sources from before and after); second, on field work done about the actual situation for collection of wild aromatics and medicinal plants, in different part of the country.

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Conclusion

Our communication will highlight major institutional problems related to the management of commons throughout the conventions and agreements, organizing the MAPs collection. An historical (and yet not done) analysis of these two antagonist systems, based on field studies for the contemporary situation and on Albanian archives for the past periods (1860-1991) is of great interest for today challenges. Both in terms of rural development and agro-biodiversity conservation, there is a need to find innovative ways for a collective action to sustainably rule these commons. Neither State nor markets are able to deal with identified pressures against MAPs resources.

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Séance 3- Le foncier comme bien commun

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