



*Local Food Matters!*  
*International Workshop*

***Opportunities of small producers for traditional products development in R. Of Macedonia***

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# R. Of Macedonia?

Rural development is a vitally important policy and Government is interested for rural development, traditional products and protection agricultural products

- Low for rural development (2010)
  - Low for Agriculture Product Quality (2011),
  - By-laws according GIs are prepared (2011,2012,2013)
- but
- Institutional capacity – still weak



Government provide subvention  
for protected products

- ❑ For Elaborate Preparing
- ❑ Label Design
- ❑ Promotion

So far no  
registration



# HYGIENE PACKAGE

We have adopted

- Regulation (EC) No 852/2004
- Regulation (EC) No 853/2004
- Regulation (EC) No 882/2004
- Regulation (EC) No 854/2004
- Regulation (EC) No 1662/2006



**LOW FOR FOOD SAFETY /2010**

- 5 - amendments and 82 Rulebooks

**LOW FOR FEED SAFETY /2010**

- 2 - amendments and 18 Rulebooks

**Lows for**

**Animal health, animal welfare, animal identification, plant protection .....**

# *Derogations and flexibility for small food operators*



- ❖ Rules for small cheese producers only for sheep and goat milk  
OJ 61/May 2009

**Registered only 7**  
**There are more than 200 (no official data)**

- ❖ Rules for direct supply by the producer of small quantities of primary products OJ 10/Jan.2013

**Registered only 2**



But how

- Venerable old cheese plant was destroyed and built new in order to be registered as a cheese farm (mandra)

**Why?**

- *Manufacturer had a poor understanding about the possibilities of adapting to hygienic rules*
- or
- *Strict requirements by Competent Authority*





# *What are the problems?*

- Regulations too comprehensive – farmers can not understand rules
- Poor Transparency
- Different application of the requirements by food inspectors
- Registration of the establishment – too complicate similar with big dairy plants
- Lack of farmers knowledge regarding hygiene rules
  - limited know how which could help in improving quality and productivity
  - limited knowledge on food safety, traceability
- Lack of information – RD founds, IPARD ....
- Local authorities – Land Registry, using pastures, Legal properties .....
- Villages dying – loosing traditional products -

# We have a great potential



**MACEDONIAN PEOPLE PREFER DOMESTIC LOCAL FOOD**

**not leading to risk for consumers**

22/06/2007



**prevent rural exodus**



01.04.2014



## The strengthening of rural development policy is an overall priority.



- Our country need an active rural development policy because **this will help us to achieve valuable goals for rural areas and for the people who live and work there.**
- Many of our rural areas have significant challenges. Our farming and forestry businesses need to build their competitiveness.
- We have a wonderful landscape which is valuable for rest and recreation and tourism development.
- Rural areas give us essential raw materials, and a lot of traditional specific products





What is necessary to be done?

If we want to preserve our traditional food, our culinary habits, identity and tradition, and in same time provide equal market competition we should pay attention to our production, implementation safety standards and protect our agricultural products.



# Specific measures to encourage small producers

- Introduced a national measures for derogation and flexibility in each special traditional product according the local situation (possibilities and conditions )
- encourage their implementation
- Define the obligatory hygiene rules for each production
- Published Guidance for producers
- **Only with clear rules and instruments may farmers produce the added valued products that consumers want**

# What else is necessary to be done?

- **Capacity building - infrastructure for implementing food safety and quality system**
- **Sound legal framework – clear, simple procedure for food safety for small producers – layout, premises, equipment ....**
- **Trainings for small producers**
- **Simplification of registration procedure**
- ❖ **providing legal tools and an institutional framework to protect the reputation of these products.**
- **Access to the funds**
- **Promotion of traditional products**
  - **Encourage diverse agricultural production**
  - **Help consumers to understand the specific character of the products**



## What else authority can done?

The traditional methods for preservation some products (mainly cheeses and other raw milk products, or dried or smoked meat products) may not strictly comply with new requirements based on modern hygienic standards (pasteurization, use of preservatives, use wooden tools...).

The identification of these products during inventories and registration process may help to obtain technical assistance or flexibility and eventually exemptions for maintaining the traditional know-how and culinary patrimony.







Thank  
you

