



**Presence in Albania**

**AGRICULTURE NEEDS ASSESMENT  
FOR  
KARBUNARA VILLAGE**

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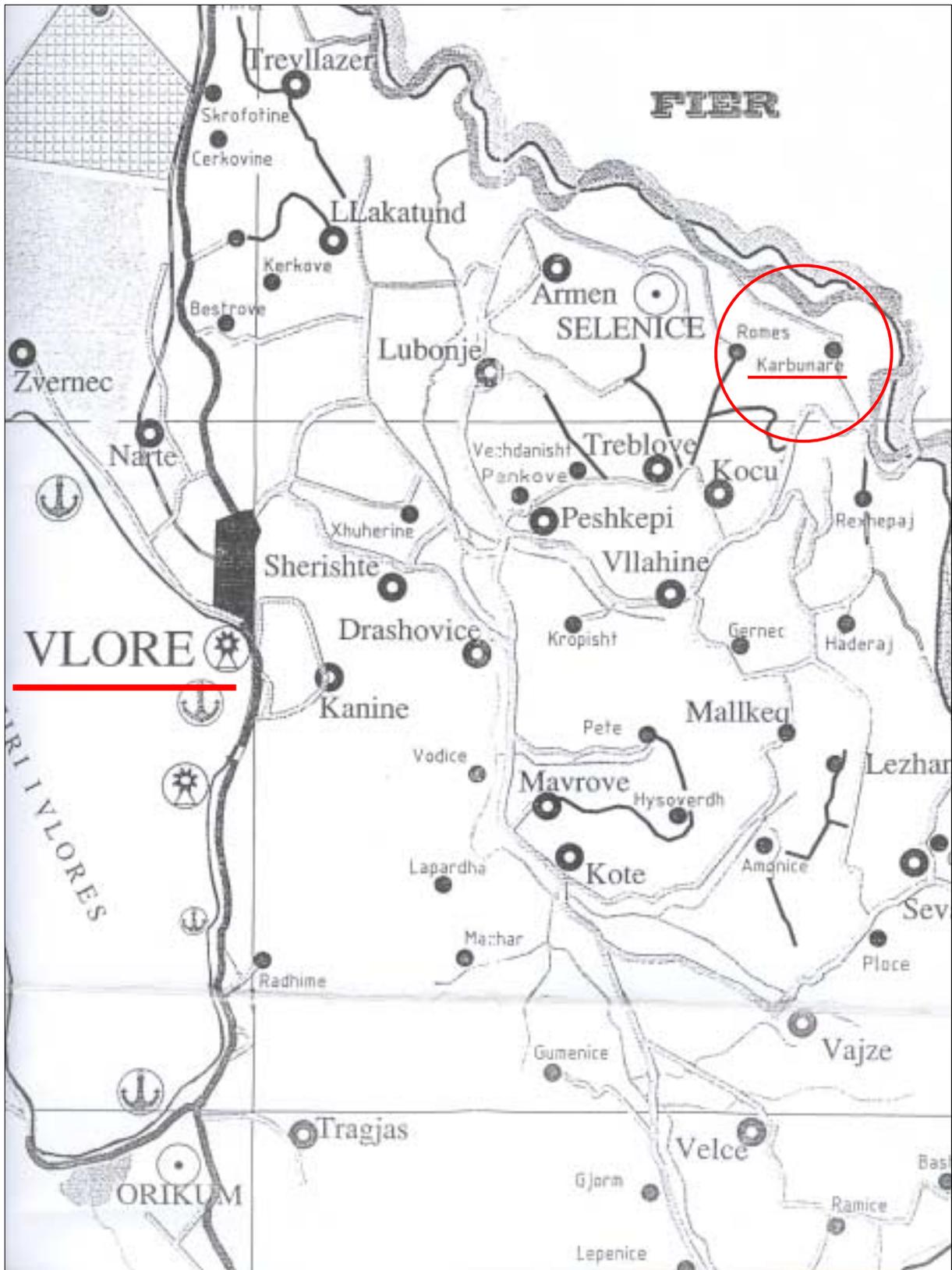
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## **Preface**

### Role and purpose of the study

The study about need assessment of Karbunara village, Vlora District, even why doesn't presuppose to identify all the problems in this village, has a particular role for the introduction of alternative development as most effective alternatives to stop the cultivation of drug crops.

Based in the information data of local government institutions, since 1994 a lot of persons are involved in the criminal activity of cultivation and trade of drug crops – Cannabis Sativa.

So if in 1998 police department destroyed 28.000 plants (these in all area of drug crop cultivation in District of Vlora) in 2001 there are destroyed 258.000 plants and arrested 73 persons. The local government has identified the village of Karbunara as one of the most problematic areas in the District.

That's why the role of the study is to make a general need assessment of the village of Karbunara and determine the potentials for development.

In this study we will try to identify the phenomena of poverty, the ways to reduce it, the relation between poverty and drugs and the possibilities for poverty reduction and drug control.

In this study, to achieve the final goal we will include the actors that should and could participate in this process, determine the immediate and in perspective solutions for a stable development and away from such problems of high risks - as drug crops cultivation.

## **Part 1: Introduction of studied problematic area**

### Geographic position

Karburnara village is situated in north of Vlora district, in a distance of 33 km from the town Vlora. It's a hilly area; the village is next to the side of Vjosa river, 214 m above sea level. In general, there is not uniform distribution of rain-falls during the year. There are not snow falls and frost in this area due to its geographic position; sometimes they can be present after middle of November while spring begins in March.

The village is placed in the valleys in the hills, to avoid the winds coming from Vjosa river that times to times are strong ones.

The average temperatures in July-August are between 20-23 °C and in winter it goes up to minus 2 °C. The average rain-falls pass 990 mm, but only 13 % falls in June-September period.

### Population and its commitment

In the village there are 1.100 inhabitants, 630 males and 470 females. The most part of them work in agriculture and animal husbandry or 67 %, 2 % in other businesses, in immigration there are 9 % of population, and 22 % there are juvenile, pupils and students.

In socialist time the active labour in general has been involved in cooperatives, not excluding the employment in petrol governmental enterprises, waters enterprises, etc.

The overpopulation of this village was a policy of the socialist government, for its own existence, because only to the rural population could be addressed the biggest part of system failures.

Beginning the changes, after "1990", the active labour has only two possibilities to earn subsistence incomes, the agriculture and immigration.

The village has 260 families with an average of 4.2 capita/family. Emphasize the fact that number of births it continuous to reduce, even in slow rhythms.

The phenomena of migration to the cities it's not yet a considerable one, so the density of population in this area is 206 habitants per km<sup>2</sup>, from 114 that is the average number per km<sup>2</sup> in Albania.

In 1998 has been built the elementary school, 8 classes, with the financing of SOROS foundation and UNDP programm, with contemporary environments. Today there are studying 160 pupils. There are continuing the studies in high school and universities respectively 24 and 4 students.

### Agriculture land and cultivated crops

Karburnara village has a surface of 348 ha agriculture land, from that 34.5 % or 120 ha in plain field and 228 ha as hilly land. In compliance with the law No. 7501 dated on 19.07.1991 " For the land" was finished the privatization of the land for the farmers in Karburnara village too. According to this law they become private owners of 0.3 ha, or 3 dynyms/capita (1 dy = 1.000 m<sup>2</sup>) of agriculture land, from that 2.3 dy in field and 0.7 dy in the hill. The average of surface of agriculture land distributed to the private farmers already

in national level is 2.2 dy per capita. This land distribution had it positive and negative effects.

The real fact is that the farmers become the owner of its land, but it was not the inheritor owner of the property that's why the estimation for this donated property didn't take the right value. In the same time, with the aim to equilibrate the land categorization in distribution, was noticed an extreme division of lands in plots that excluded any possibility for modern agriculture with mechanization. So each farmer become owner of 4-5 agricultural plots. In this conditions the farmers in Karbunara could not produce for the market, the production was used to cover the consumer needs of the village.

This lead to a traditional crop structure - 33 % of all the agriculture land used for wheat cultivation that is a non-competitive culture, not only for this area but also for all Albania. The non compensation of active elements loosen in the soil by organic or chemical fertilizers, the total absence of mechanization for the work processes, destruction of irrigation system for field lands and partially for hilly lands caused an evident reduction of yield of all cultures.

During the privatization process the farmers in Karbunara become owner of 5.5 olive trees per capita. The olive trees are "Kalinjot" variety that is known for a good yield and high quality rating of oil. But due to lack of services to this national property as irrigation, spray with chemicals against olive trees fly and other pests, the work under the wreath, organic and chemical fertilization, traditional methods of harvesting, the yield per olive tree is going up to 15 kg/tree and what it worst in these two last years the production is near to zero.

In this village there are established two small processing factories of olive oil with equipments of such capacity to process the whole quantity of olives produced in a good production year.

Table 1: Structure of cultures

No.	Crops	Unit	Surface/ Trees	%
1	Wheat	ha	115	33.0
2	Mise	ha	16	4.6
3	Vegetables Watermelon	ha	38	11.0
4	Potato	ha	5	1.4
5	Beens	ha	12	3,4
6	Foods	ha	66	19.0
7	Vineyard	ha	14	4.0
8	Olive trees	Trees	8.500	
9	Vineyard	Trees	1.700	

Actually all the agriculture land is without an irrigation system.

### Animal farming and development tendencies

Animal husbandries in Karbunara village generate approximately 41 % of total incomes of the farmers. In general is the same as for agriculture production, it goes more for the traditional, this means all the farmer families breed almost those categories of livestock that traditionally have bred years ago. The development of animal farming it's oriented to fulfill their consumer needs, not or only a few to the market. The only ones they can be object for the market are calves, lambs and kids. It is used almost 19 % of agriculture land to cultivate forage crops and to produce fodder for livestock.

In Karbunara, there is a hilly- mountainous garland with bountiful pastures for sheep and goats.

Table 2: Structure of livestock

No.	Livestock	Unit	Number
1	Cattle	Hed	354
2	Sheep	Hed	2.810
3	Goats	Hed	1.210
4	Poultry	Hed	2.820
5	Bees	Beehive	20
6	Odd-toed animals	Hed	223

The tendency to breed sheep and goats is related with the relative lower costs than other categories require and not use of agriculture land.

### Summary

There are chances for agriculture development in Karbunara village, this related with its geographic position, 214 m above sea level, the relative distance from the urban area "Vlora"- 33 km and its climate conditions, mildly climate. Because of the fragmented land it's necessary to think about an intensive use. Despite the actual problems of irrigation system see the position of the land near to the Vjosa river it's possible to organize irrigation for the most part of the land.

Another potential is fruit farming; actually generate a small part, almost 7 % of incomes of the farmers in Karbunara village.

The geographic position and structure of the land are suitable condition for the cultivation of grapes. This actual tendency has to be encouraged, but selection of the varieties and well- studied investment for the perspective has to be in the focus of the approaches.

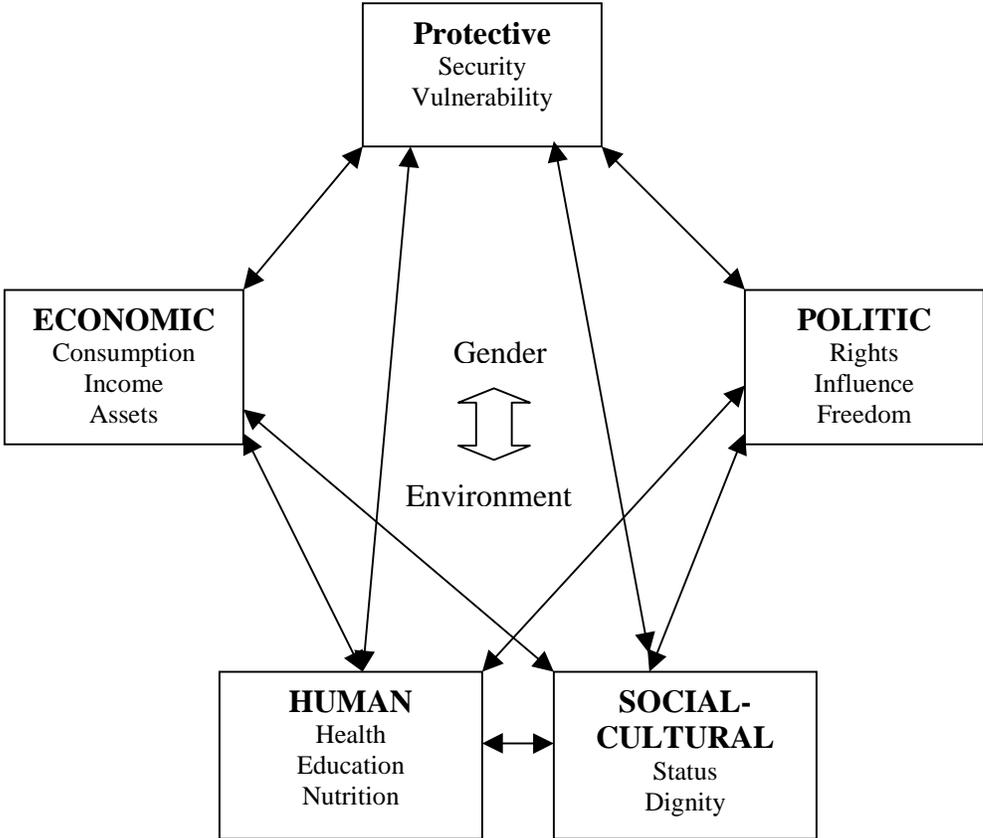
There is a part of animal farming that should get closer the farmers to the market are sheep and goats breeding and beekeeping.

In base of the calculations for the legal activities, on agriculture and animal farming structure, as mentioned above, one family in Karbunara village has an legal income of 229.800 leke/year, or 19.150 leke per month, or 4.800 leke/capita per month. This is the total income for their subsistence.

**Part II Poverty and Drugs**

What is poverty, poverty level in Karbunara

The concept of poverty nowadays is being reduced only to the economic side – lack of financial means for subsistence. But this concept is wider one. It has to be considered in its five dimensions: economic, politic, socio-cultural and protective ones. Considering these five-dimensional position of the poverty we can define as: Poverty is lack of freedom, enslaved by crushing daily burden, by depression and fear of what the future will bring.



The fact that more than 93 % of the families in Karbunara are dependent totally from this agriculture economy, with an annual average of legal incomes of the families that not pass 19.500 Leke/month while it's a vacuum in different periods of the year. See the characteristic of agriculture production, creates serious difficulties for the life of farmers in this rural area.

The agriculture has a weak structure, real poor marketing, small-scale owners, a total lack of credit financial recourses, lack of irrigation, environmental degradation, emphatic lack of agricultural incomes, lack of agronomic practices. All these factors influenced on extremely low yields that obviously influence the familiar budget and big reduction of poverty level.

### Drug crop production and the inducing factors of development

In the above-mentioned definition of poverty we called that as stress, lack of support. The farmer in Karbunara in way to get out from this stress find himself involved in a bigger stress - drug crops.

The cultivation of "Cannabis Sativa" in Karbunara village has found suitable territory. It is a plant that doesn't need so much water, has a short production cycle - 5 months, it can be grow in relatively poor soils, so it's not necessary for a big quantity of chemical and organic fertilizers, gives a lot of production and regarding marketing it's done and has high prices. According to the conversations with the farmers in Karbunara in 1 dy of Cannabis, in different years (price changes), they could earn 1.250 – 8.700 leke/kg.

See the above figures, cannot be offered comparative alternatives for legal crops cultivation, but the fact that cultivation of Cannabis is high-risk cultivation there are other alternatives for legal production, without such a risk, to reduce the poverty in this area.

One of the facts that influence on the drug crop cultivation in this area is the lack of complete legal framework from Albanian government for agriculture development and poverty reduction in rural areas. The absence of the government with development policies for rural areas, where live more than 50% of the population, bring the farmers from one stress to deeper one. We don't ignore the presence of the police departments in problematic areas, but we cannot call it - the presence of the government for development, but for the capture of the farmers whose are involved in the criminal activity.

### Poverty reduction and drug control intervention

Poverty reduction is the basic element to control drug production in the target area. This for the fact that poverty was the factor that directed these farmers to cannabis cultivation. They choose this alternative to reduce their poverty, to change their economic and social standard, not to be reach.

Emphasize the fact that the producers of cannabis, even joint by the same aim, aren't homogenous group. What is common is their economic level, as their position they are only small-scale producers.

The basic criteria why we consider small-scale producers are:

- The land on property and density of population
- Job offers
- Credit resources, for investments and development
- The politic anarchy and the absence of a complete legal framework

On evaluating these criteria we have to identify the conditions and priorities that individual farmers take in consideration when they take decisions for their involvement in drug crops cultivation. The simple model of human behavior, emphasizing the economic rationality to other motivations, it's in the same moment inappropriate and not valid see the number of alternatives that the farmer has.

To intervene to the poverty should be operated in the five-dimensional complex: influence in the economy, human influence, politic influence, socio-cultural influence and protective one.

### Summary

Poverty is lack of freedom, enslaved by crushing daily burden, by depression and fear of what the future will bring. Regarding poverty reduction has to be taken in consideration not only the economic plan but the human, socio-cultural, politic and protective ones too.

The main factor of drug crops production in Karbunara village is the low rate of family incomes from agricultural business, lack of job opportunities, lack of legislation for rural areas and poverty reduction. The only one law that introduce the village in capitalist economy is the law No. 7501 dated on 19.07.1991 " The land", but after that nothing. All the decrees and laws issued to exclude the farmer from tax system were not considered as development policies but also made the farmers hostages of their mini-farms.

### **Part III            Poverty Reduction and Development Policies**

#### The development policies for the area

First of all to call development policies as the one in this concrete case, where the programs and the assistance are not conditioned and are not given stipulation that can be avoided even in the case when drug crops are the life strategy for the farmers.

The main actors of poverty reduction and drug control are: the government in all lawmakers and executive structures, the community and European structures concerning the development of poor countries or countries in development together with donors.

**First:**            The government and its local executive structures should have a detailed information, actually they don't, about poverty level in the territory where they exercise their position as the only strategic element to offer them development projects from different countries and donors. The local government has to have ready the projects for different areas or group of areas and to estimate the poverty in its five dimensions and not as a casual phenomena of economic declination.

Lawmaker, through the local government structures has to elaborate studies in problematic area or macro economic level to draft more efficient poverty reduction development policies.

It's very important establishment and strengthening of the relations between the government and civil society.

**Second:**            The community has to create as more optimum conditions for the suitability of the possible poverty reduction and drug control projects. The community has to discover the attractive side of the question, has to estimate the private demands and needs, but to coordinate them and present in the plan of community interests. So the donors will be more present in the phenomena of poverty reduction. About this question, in Karbunara village, it is a lot to say but it's not possible. The farmers have contradictory opinions about the development alternatives, but important is that they don't know how to be part of a project even with that small quantity of financial recourse they have.

**Third:**            European Community and donors, but not the less-important actor even listed in the third place, for the fact that they carry such experience from other poor countries 'infected' by this kind of fast development strategies. There are a lot of very successful donors and projects on poverty reduction in problematic areas of drug crop production.

### The strategies for a stable and perspective development

In development strategies should be taken in consideration the multi-functional role of drug crops to realize the pro-poverty potentials of alternative development programs. In this purpose should be included important elements like:

1. Establishment of a crediting system in problematic areas in order to reduce the dependence of small-scale producers from local buyers, to grow the legal production and procure the food.
2. Reorganization of alternative crops structures more profitable for the farmers and the beginning of the investments for the intensive use of the land.
2. Create the facilities to enter in the market of legal agricultural products, as an indicator for increase of incomes from agricultural business and improvement of well being of the farmers.
4. Create opportunities for farm economies. The activities that aim the agriculture productivity tent to give advantages to the reach persons, because, of their characteristic, the direct connection with surface of the land on property. That's why it's important to organize training courses about opportunities to increase farmer incomes and their values to improve the future in other direction.
5. Enlarging the understanding of alternative development programs as migration and development of migration areas as alternative programs.

### Summary

The specific socio-economic and environmental circumstances that influence the production of familiar goods has to be a priority. More the discussions related with economic profits of drug crops could not be calculated because of an illicit activity without an external agents support. Basically, the chances of pro-poor drug control programs depend on the political, economic and social frameworks of the partner countries, including the partner's political will in regard to drug control and human rights observation, on acceptable level of security in the project region and existence of executing organizations on site, that are capable of implementing the measures needed. For this project a special attention has to be given to the legal framework and the role of the law enforcement.

## **Part IV: Alternatives**

### Development Alternatives

First: Due to the fact of limited agriculture land in this area its necessary the implementation of programs for an intensive use of the land. This can be realized in two directions:

- a) Investments for greenhouse constructions for vegetable production from individual farmers and later the need for management and marketing of in and outputs will detect the cooperation.
- b) Foundation of mutual collaboration associations (Producer Association) - as a form of cooperation based in Albanian law and after that beginning the investment on group of farmers.

It's not pretended from the first step on high-tech greenhouses, but very simple ones in plastic sheet and very simple metallic construction, like those in Hysgjokaj Commune, Lushnja district, that cover 20 % of total protected environments surface in Albania, with relatively low costs and high chances for a qualitative and quantitative production.

Considering the position of agriculture land, the structure and the climate condition its possible an investment in greenhouses in 60-70 ha.

As essential part of the project has to be the question of selection of right vegetable seeds for a maximal possible production and acceptable values for the consumers.

The house-gardens can be another important recourse of incomes; cultivating vegetables and spices for family needs or for market too, including even the women in the agricultural business too (gender problem).

A very important moment that should be implemented in the project is establishment of contacts with different businesses of in and outputs to produce with lower costs and higher profit – here can be very important one or more Producer Associations.

In this way the farmer in Karbunara village can work during all the year, use the land and cultivate legal crops, increase its incomes 5-8 times and is present in the market as a partner.

The restriction factors to take in consideration:

- The psychological situation of the farmers disappointed from actual development agriculture businesses. The farmer families in Karbunara will generate an income of 35 \$/month per capita from legal crop production.
- The lack of irrigation system, it can be available by reconstruction of old irrigation system using the water resources of Vjosa River or digging wells at 11-13 m depths.
- For a successful marketing in the future it's important the reconstruction of the main road, that connect the village with the city of Vlora, 33 km long. It's a road with a stable basis, without landslides, possible to pass during all the year.
- To make use of the financial savings of the farmers first should be found financial resources.

Second: See the hilly-mountainous territory of the area and the tendencies of certain individual farmers to use the pastures recourses in the mountains around; could be influenced in the establishment of animal farms for goats breeding. The project has to aim to change the traditional - each family grows 5-6 goats, and to support the farmers whose want to grow heard of livestock of 80-100 goats. Breeding cost of goats is relatively low because of use of natural pastures during all the year.

As another development alternative can be the establishment of small line for animal products processing to process all the milk production from sheep, goats and cows.

Third: Another alternative on poverty reduction control in this area is vineyard cultivation. The natural and climate conditions and soil composition are incentive factors to invest in this direction. The hilly lands, in 70% of the surface, can offer a qualitative grape production both for processing industry and for the fresh market for consume.

Fourth: As an alternative for a fasten support to improve live condition in the area, could be considered the internal migration of free labor power (even seasonal one). This alternative will solve the momentary problems in the area and will create the premises for development in the future.

### Summary

The study is based in the information received from direct communication with 21 farmers in Karbunara village, leaders of the commune and district of Vlora. There are used too materials on this area in posses of OSCE and Agriculture and Food Directory in Vlora. It's used the photo and deduction method for the elaboration of all data.

Karbunara village, see it's geographic position, 214 m above sea level, in a relatively short distance (33 km) from Vlora and a mildly climate has very good chances for agriculture developments. But fragmented agriculture land and the small surface on property make a necessity the intensive use of the land.

The actual problems for irrigation system can be solved with a few investments because the field of Karbunara is situated on the valley of "Vjosa" river. The river is one of the biggest in Albania and there is water during all the year.

Fruit farming, actually generate a small part of farmer's income, approximately 7 %. The geographic position and land structure influence the good cultivation of grapes, and the surface with vineyards is increasing, but this is an investment that will give good results after a few years.

Regarding the livestock, in this area are grown more sheep, goats, bees and only a few cows.

Based on the calculation made for legal agriculture production, crops structure and livestock, the family in Karbunara has an income, approximately, of 229.800 Leke/year, or 18.150 Leke/month. This is the income used to cover the life costs.

In this condition, Karbunara is in the limits of poverty. For poverty reduction and drug crop limitation/elimination in this region, it has to be worked out not only in the economic plan, but also in those human, social-cultural, political and protective ones too.

Readers of this study, except the introduction of the situation in Karbunara village and the factors that obliged the farmers to cultivate drug crops, will find the opinions of agriculture and economist experts group on how to change this situation.

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