

Mediterritage

Valorisation économique du patrimoine naturel et culturel des montagnes méditerranéennes

SOUS-PROJET « BIOMASSE »

Présentation de la contribution de La Communauté de montagne ALTO SINNI Région de Basilicate (Italie)

1. Présentation générale du territoire/village *Overall presentation of the territory / Village*

The Alto Sinni area, involved in BIOMASS subproject, includes ten Municipalities and shows a 551,47 square kilometers surface area. Its territory is situated in southern Basilicata, in the heart of the Appennino calabro-lucano, and it is almost completely inside the Pollino National Park.



Picture 1: *Monte Cotugno (Senise) dam and Alto Sinni landscape.*

Almost half of the territory shows clear mountainous features, with summits surpassing 2.000 meters of altitude and beech and oak trees forests. The agricultural surface amounts to 15,925 hectares (29% of the territory), the 56% of which is destined to seedings, the 30% to lawns and pastures and the 14% to olive trees and vineyards.

Another natural element featuring the Alto Sinni territory is Monte Cotugno (Senise) dam, one of the largest battered-earth dams in Europe, with a water 530 cubic meters capacity (picture 1). In 2001, the resident population counted about 23.511 inhabitants, recording a 24% decrease in the last 50 years, even if it shows opposite trends among the different Municipalities. Senise and Francavilla are the only two Municipalities inclined to increase, because they're the main Alto Sinni centers of economic and social proliferation. Only four of the ten Municipalities count more than 2.000 residents.

Till the early 80's, the agricultural field has been representing the main support to the local economical system. Afterwards, the population has searched alternative employments first of all in farming and then in service field, by contributing to the progressive abandonment of the countrysides and to the growing problems of territory and landscape preservation.

Presently, the growth perspectives linked to the institution of the Pollino Park have been unheard and it still remains a general state of economical and social decline. Among the primary needs of

the territory, the safeguard of the natural resources and the productive diversification of the agricultural and forestal enterprises are the most important.



Alto Sinni agro-forest landscape

2. Situation du territoire / village par rapport au thème du sous-projet

Situation of the territory / village with regard to the sub-project

The natural vocation of the area towards the agricultural and forest activities (the area is almost completely included within a national park), force the political representatives to identify as soon as possible some helpful initiatives aimed to improve the primary sector and to protect the existing natural resources.

Presently, it is possible to identify two main agricultural typologies: the one intensive is localized in the Sinni valley; the one extensive is generally practiced in the mountainous and hill areas.

The first typology asserted itself above all after the realization of Monte Cotugno dam, thanks to the possibility to water and it supported the vegetable (peppers, beans, etc.) and fruit (peach and pear trees) production.

Otherwise, the mountain agriculture turns out to be more and more waning, because they cannot identify any helpful development strategies, aiming to increase the competitiveness among the companies on the market. The main bonds are represented by the lowered business dimension, by the deep fragmentation of the properties, by the lacking vocation of the enterprises to work as cooperatives. For such reasons, the most of the young people leave their parent's enterprises, to devote themselves to other activities or, in the most of the cases, to move to other territories.

The forest productions seem to be deeply constrained by the lack of a plan of forest management, by the side of the Park. For such a reason, the most of the forests (prevaillingly high shaft) seem to be unused. Moreover, the low value of firewood often leads to the abandonment of the marginal forest areas, because of their low economical value.

The BIOMASS subproject aims to analyze all the possible options as an alternative to the actual agricultural and forest management of the territory. In particular, it aims to wonder eventual economical, social and environmental impacts coming from the conversion of the existing traditional companies into companies specialized in the production, transformation and sale of bio-masses to be converted into renewable energy.

3. Les attentes par rapport au sous-projet

Expectations from the sub-project

BIOMASS subproject is also aimed to undertake new initiatives aiming to match, within the territorial background, the productive diversification and the economical development of the primary sector, to the preservation, the maintenance and the exploitation of the territory through an on-going human protection.

One of the main needs of the local communities pertains to the identification of helpful development strategies, aimed to generate new occupational chances and to keep down the emigration phenomenon. For such reasons, the Comunità Montana intends to manage a new shared planning approach, based on the exploitation of the local resources.

The international cooperation about the themes concerning with the energetic exploitation of the bio-masses, characterizing the Mediterranean mountains, is expected to be a very important

moment of experiences sharing. Moreover, the next workshops to be organized are expected to aim to the identification of new possible strategies to be implemented through the future European and regional politics of rural development.

On a local level, the realization of BIOMASS subproject represents an important chance to encourage the entrepreneurial initiative about the bio-energetic factories and, at the same time, to make aware the local communities about the use of the renewable energies (heat or electricity). The actions to be realized on the territory are going to deal with the creation of a useful data base concerning with the real bio-masses availability, structured on the base of different typologies (agricultural, forest, wood transformation factory), and of the identification of any abandoned soil or any potentially designable to the energy crops production soil. Moreover, we are going to estimate the actual diffusion of pellets heaters and the raw material market. The study aims to estimate the economical and environmental feasibility in order to realize a pellets weaving factory involving the agro-forest enterprises existing on the territory and any development support actions to be faced by the regional rural and energetic politics.