

ABANDONMENT OF ARABLE LAND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF POGRADEDEC

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ABSTRACT

Land abandonment along with land fragmentation are the main problems of agriculture development in the Municipality of Pogradec. This process took start after 1990, because of socio-economic changes that happened in this year. Even after 25 years since that time abandonment of land is very widespread as a result of many factors. Economy of this area is oriented in tertiary sector and little attention is headed toward agriculture. Land fragmentation, lack of mechanized tools to tenure the land and low productivity of arable land in mountainous reliefs, caused a mass abandonment of land and rural settlements. Even today risk of land abandonment is high, because revenues from agriculture are very low and cost of production is high. It's important to study factors and impacts of this phenomenon in order to take proper measures to manage it. Land abandonment causes environmental and economic problems, but sometimes it has positive effects like reforestation. Considering that in Albania unemployment is high, state can promote agriculture sector, in this way a lot of people would raise their revenues and would take better care about land. Purpose of this paper is to define causes, impacts and management of abandoned lands in the Municipality of Pogradec.

Keywords: Land abandonment, Pogradeci's Municipality, land degradation, land fragmentation, reforestation.