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Consequences of urbanization in country in development

Montenegro – meaning Black Mountain is major geographical characteristic of my country. With total surface area of 13812 square kilometers the agricultural lands covers approximately. 38% (2004 data). Montenegro has a great tradition in agriculture. Montenegro didn't get to industrial revolution until the end of World War II. But after the war was finished, industrialization began rapidly under a communist regime. During this time populations came from rural areas to industrial centers. The political problems in Yugoslavia caused a division among its people which led to the creation of new nations, leaving behind Serbia & Montenegro as a country, with the major agricultural centers with arable land we in Serbia, and leaving Montenegro with only mountain grasslands. Montenegro re-established itself and in May of 2006 became an independent country, but it continued to import a majority of its food from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy and other European Union countries. Low import fees made some Serbian products 20% cheaper in Montenegro than they were in Serbia.

	Imported	Exported
Serbia	832 millions	109 millions
Bosnia and Herzegovina	160 millions	22.3 millions
Croatia	166.6 millions	6.7 millions
Italy	190 millions	133 millions
Germany	133 millions	16 millions
Kosovo*	3.2 millions	15.5 millions

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Montenegro is potential European Union candidate and it gained visa liberalization with European Union, but it will take some time to become full member of Union. Since Montenegro turned in its application in December of 2008, it has done many things to improve its economics, tourism, politics and industrial base, with the issues of agriculture being addressed at this time.

The agricultural system that remains in place is that of a third world country, with the typical farm family consisting of two elder members and sometimes an additional male. The two elder people were normally born and raised in the village or neighboring villages. The next house may at times be miles away, with many days going by before making contact or hearing from anyone else. They have electricity, but the water system is poor and they have to use well. They eat what they make. Husband maybe has elementary education, wife of that age rarely. There are high chances that husband participated in World War II. The nearest hospital is probably 30 miles away through dirt road. They have 20ha of land of which 2 is arable. They grow onions, potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce, cabbage, cucumbers, anything that can be grown in the harsh mountain soil. They have some apple, plum, pear or peach trees over time, these families have watched people move out, only to settle in the town centers... They receive pension of about 170 euros a month. They have kids, but they are married and live in town centers. They visit them once in couple of weeks. If they have son that lives with them, he takes care of property. He visits the town every week, but he can't find wife. No woman wants to live in village and work on a farm. No one does.

It's hard to get banks to help rural families. Most of the banks would rather give 1 million euro credit to new business owners, than 10 000 euro credits to farmers. There are few who earn real money in agriculture business. Many farmers still use hand tools like scythe, forks and hoes. Tractors are rare, because they are too expensive for farmers.

Though land is 13 times less polluted than in countries of European Union, and water and air are cleaner than those in region, Montenegrin products can't find place on market. The main reason is poor marketing and big foreign store chains that push their products. The small farmers can't compete with that, and they don't receive enough help from government. Government has done some projects, which should have helped farmers, but there wasn't much success. Mainly that was just a parade for European Union.

There are many stereotypes surrounding farm life, and sadly most of them are true. The farmers are known as good and fair people but poverty brings them to edge of existence every day. Without proper education they are not able to be part of society. They usually don't live near cities or town centers. Farmers usually don't take them professions by choice, rather by requirement. If there are more siblings, usually whole farm will be left to one of them. He's often taught from early age that farm will be his responsibility. While his brothers and sisters leave farm and go to colleges, he will end his education with high school.

There are only about 300 agricultural experts with college degree. That's not enough even for our agricultural capacities. The main problem is that they are not evenly distributed through north, where is $\frac{3}{4}$ of our agricultural production. By European standards for 186 000 of arable land there should be 350 experts, and 500-600 more for animal husbandry and veterinary science. By experts agronomist in my country can never be unemployed, though that's not the case.

This status is same since fall of communism. It's not hard to see that there is not change. There is not any scientific research of how urbanization impacted farmers, but you see evidence of it in everyday life. The status of this problem is getting worse since the fall of communism. With "boom" in tourism this has become only worse. More and more southern farm families have turned to tourism and people in the north are going to that trend too. With low education requirements and market that can never be satisfied, it seems like better solution. This is significant also because large touristic companies rather use cheaper imported products than domestic ones.

Resolving these problems would mean new age in agriculture. Being farmer would be profession choice rather than need. Both quality and quantity would be at the top. Montenegro is the land that has capacities if they are properly used. The poverty would be minimized because the highest percent of farmers is poor. This might sound to utopian, but it really doesn't take that much. The smallholders would profit the most because one family is more than enough to hold one farm together. The economy would prosper without need to import. By doing that not only that the more money would be saved the monopolies would be lessened to. Maybe good dealing with farm smallholders would lead to feeding poor urban families. With more people coming to the cities and unemployment rate getting higher every day there will be more poor urban families. There isn't any homeless food kitchen yet in my country, but helping agriculture would certainly help to raise some. It's harder for women to find jobs than men. But if these problems are solved the women should

In my country climate is unpredictable. Because climate is Mediterranean and there are so many mountains no one expected floods. They've hit the field areas in central part of the country. They've ruined most of their crops. Many families had to move too. But the biggest hit was on the cattle and

horses. Some horses that were found in the middle of the flood weren't able to get out by themselves, and because of lack of people and resources in rescue service they've couldn't be saved.

Though population growth should serve in favor of the problem there is really no difference. Poverty caused decreased population in agricultural communities. With population growth in cities the unemployment rate is higher and poverty goes up with it too. I just hope that this will balance out like in every healthy society.

There isn't much water scarcity in my country, but supplying villages away from town centers with running water is problem. For long times the farms didn't have running water and proper bathrooms. The wells aren't strange sight on the farms now days too. The government has taken some actions to provide running water for all houses in the last couple of years.

Our country had some problems with energy demand during the recession. Though Montenegro has some fast, mountain rivers they can't be all used for electricity production. There is big debate of what rivers, and how, should be used for electricity production. Many of them are part of beautiful nature, and building dams can affect mountain tourism and eco-systems. With that many farmers in the north could be affected, because some of their products go to tourism. On the other and the imported electricity is very expensive, and small pension isn't enough to pay it off. So it is double-edge sword my country is facing now.

The smallholders are really doing their best. I think that they are ones in need. They just have to be more involved in politics. They should organize better and express their opinions. They've been left for themselves for too long and they've got used to it. They must organize official organizations that can influence government. They should improve the education of their children too. They should tell teach them to think ahead. To help them make the right choices. I am sure that they will have plenty of examples of wrong ones through future. They must understand that the ideal future is balance between pre-industrial, industrial and post-industrial societies.

We always tend to move to the post-industrial society. We always will, and we want to get fast. But what will happen when we get there? Economic faculty has over 2200 students now and law school maybe even more. What will country of 650 000 citizens do with that many managers and lawyers? There are far too many people with college degrees on unemployment services and even more of those who don't work in their area of expertise. People always moan how life is bad, how there is not enough jobs, how it's hard to get hired. There are plenty of opportunities in agriculture.

My father always told to me: "If you don't study and think about your education, you better go work on a farm". And If I don't I will. There is variety of things in which you can be really effective now days. For example, cranberries. While they were popular in the US and maybe in Western Europe, no one knew about them in my country. Then when the cranberry tea came, people got interested. Some smallholders really profited of them. There are always things like that. The things that are popular on the west, will be popular in the east too, you just have to be on outlook for those things. The government could to their job by promoting those kinds of things. If smallholders organize and get connected with government that will open whole new kind of opportunities.

The first, last, and in the middle is education. That's were government steps in. We need to raise public awareness. The people aren't wrong when they have no future in agriculture, there are just uninformed.

There aren't enough agriculture programs in our education. There are only 2 agriculture oriented high schools in whole country. Ministries of Agriculture and Education should work together on this one. Maybe some visits to the elementary and high schools. There could be organized some clubs for high schools students like FFA...

But the best way would be if we would incorporate agriculture with tourism. In period from January through August there were 1.03 million tourists in Montenegro, of which 87 % were foreign. We have great national cuisine. We could use those tourists as ambassadors for our cuisine through whole world. Pretty soon we could export our products to countries of European Union. Not only would we help smallholders we would be step closer to the full membership in European Union.

Maybe some sort of volunteer tourism would help. Where tourist would stay with farm families, working on farms. Montenegro isn't big; they would be able to go through all national parks, beaches and cultural places. Maybe conditions aren't perfect now but Ministry of Tourism should consider it.

The United Nations couldn't do much with these sorts of problems, but European Union would be of great help. For country to be part of European Union it has to prove itself on many fields. We can't enter European Union with leaving one behind. So European Union could put some pressure on government to deal with these problems, and financial support would help too.

World Bank could do many things. Except for the direct financial aid, implementing better bank policies for smallholders would help. Smallholders aren't able to get credits by themselves in big corporate banks, but if World Bank would make some agreements with them that could be easily changed.

International research agencies could spread the word of the current status of agriculture. The great help would be if they could help advertise our tourism and our products. Montenegro has everything, clean air, unpolluted land, beautiful sea and splendid natural cuisine. The poor advertising and stereotypes on the West of Balkans ruin the progress of country.

Non-governmental organizations don't have enough power. They just have no influence. The government should work on that, building our Democracy stronger. Then, non-governmental organizations should connect to bigger regional or European organizations for more influence. Uniting this way is only way we can push big corporations back. We can't do anything if farmers aren't united in their own organizations. And those organizations should be united into big one for whole country. That is the only way we will accomplish anything with larger countries and corporations surrounding us.

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