

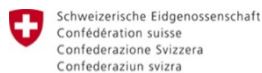


POLICY BRIEF

From their farms to the market - How do rural producers in the municipality of Tirana (not) participate

PERFORM

Performing and Responsive Social Sciences



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ABSTRACT

This study constructs a current situation of the agriculture markets of Tirana, and points out the main problems that the agriculture smallholders face. The purpose of this study is to highlight the fact that among all the policies implemented up to nowadays, there has not been any of them which has directly tried to understand and tackle accordingly the problem of informality. A potential or existing farmer in the Municipality of Tirana faces together with the many problems of the sector faces also the following possibilities: 1. Participate in the market by selling in/to the collecting point 2. Using different intermediaries as other bigger farmers to sell their products 3. Participate into the many public markets that there exist. OR choose to sell the agriculture products informally. In the following chapters we will try to analyze the two main existing possibilities with the aim to choose the best options with the most feasible results. We will do such by firstly explaining the problem in the national and local context and later on by discussion the options of the current situation in the agriculture markets of the Municipality of Tirana. The study concludes by offering a number of recommendation of the best optional policy that tries to tackle the main issue areas.

INTRODUCTION

From the decentralization of the economy (1991) up to nowadays the agriculture sector has been an important part of Albania's economy, since it contributes 19% of GDP (INSTAT, 2018). Rural families constitute more than 50% of the population and it is the best alternative of employment for these areas. In the municipality of Tirana itself, the level of employment in the agriculture sector for the rural area is 56.9%, which is indeed a higher value than the national level (43.7%) (INSTAT, 2018).

Thus, when we talk about agriculture without any doubt we can say that it is an indispensable part for the development of the region; since it both generates employment and revenues for the smallholders and farmers. This sector faces a lot of problems, starting from the production process up to the delivery to the consumers. Although the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has in focus the rural development by aiding every region with supporting policies, and the Municipality is building up new public markets, there are still many issues which are being observed and highlighted either by the media, or just by simple individuals walking around streets of Tirana. Informal agriculture vendors still exist!

Currently speaking, in the Municipality of Tirana there are 8 different public markets administered by the Trade Administration Agency, another public market administered by TID (Tirana International Development Sh.p.k), one big private collecting point administered by Ekma Group, as well as many other small private markets. Thus there is roughly 1/98,000¹ agriculture market per resident; not considering here the number of the private markets or the high number of informal vendors. According to a study of [CITATION Bal11 \l 1033]; in a survey of

¹ Calculations made by authors: data retrieved from INSTAT (2018)

Albanian street vendors where approximately 7% of all street vendors in Albania were interviewed, it was found that around 80% of all vendors work without a license, and 90% neither pay state nor municipality taxes. *Hence, almost the whole trade of street vending in Albania appears to be informal* and there is as well a 2/3 of total informal labour in agricultural sector by 87% [CITATION Gaz18 \l 1033] where most of the workers are either undeclared or ambulant sellers. Similar lines can be drawn even for the case of Tirana.

Being part of such a situation, makes it important to reconsider and rearrange the existing agriculture development policies and trade management policies. The ways trade management policies are implemented determine the future of the number of informal vendors and employment in the sector. This has a significant impact on: smallholders' production and their revenues from the sales, the municipality's budget² and the consumers (as to releasing public areas and offering better agricultural products).

The aim of this study is to put into light basic issues related to farmers' incentives for participation in the formal public market, the process of formalizing, and to present comparative discussion practices in other developing and emerging countries. It is based on a combination of unstructured interviews conducted to a number of informal and formal vendors/farmers and it is subjected to the limitation of the small number of individuals interviewed and the precise information that could be collected about the actual existing legislation, policies and data in Albania and the Municipality of Tirana in particular.

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Historical Overview of the Problem

Albania was faced massively with the problem of informality directly after the collapse of the centralized political and economic system in 1991. The adjustment of Albania in a transition economy faced the consequences of a shrinking formal sector and expansion of the informal one. Agriculture was in the forward of the adjustment process since one of the most top-priority reforms in the economic program of the new democratic government of Albania was the privatization of the land of the ex-agricultural cooperatives. At the end of this process an average of 450,000 family farms of an average size of 1.1 ha emerged [CITATION Har11 \l 1033]. Therefore, as a result of the fragile socio-economic and the existing political situation, people found it easier to fall in the informality trap.

There existed various reasons that caused the increase of informal sector in Albania and all its counties. First of all, the inexistence of fiscal and national or local development policies made it impossible to either control the high flux of informality or to collect any kind of taxes from the farmers/producers and vendors.

² The predicted amount of revenues taken from the Taxes of Agricultural Lands and Taxes taken from Occupation of Public Areas cover 0.6% of the total predicted amount of Annual Revenues of the Municipality of Tirana. [CITATION Mun18 \l 1033]

Secondly, a high number in the rural population who had limited possibilities of movement towards urban areas together with a non-functioning land market did not stimulate the farmers to increase the size of their farms (keeping them at their initial creation size). Limited size of arable areas, not only affects the amount of the marketable agricultural production but as well leads to a small number of employment in the sector.

Moreover the fragmented land into family farms increased the number of arable land per capita but at the same time made it possible for all the rural families to be self-employed. In 1994, as cited in [CITATION Har11 \l 1033] according to the World Bank almost 24% of rural population in Albania was up the supply capacity of agricultural land as a result of self-employment. Self-employment or family labor as it is considered in this case, is a distinguished trait of informality in rural areas, as it is a source of impoverishment of the village.

One of the main reasons, which still exists up to nowadays; is the approval of the Land Law No.7501 date 19/07/1991. According to this law: the land was distributed according to the present available agricultural land and the number of people living in the villages of ex-cooperatives. While the aim of this law was to consolidate private property and free initiative in agriculture as well as to overcome serious impediments to the growth of agricultural production such as its primitive production system; what it really did was to create social contradiction between land recipients, ex-owners and their heirs. Different from the practices of other ex-communist countries, in Albania's legislation for the privatization of agricultural land, the land was not given back to the ex-owners of the property prior to collectivization, but it was divided and given to the families that lived in the villages [CITATION Teq00 \l 1033]. The problem of land property is still present nowadays, and remains one of the reasons which prevents either the land recipient or the land owner to invest more in the arable area.

Many policies trying to improve the situation following the 90's have been implemented during the years. These kind of policies have tackled various problems of the sector like: Land fragmentation, decluttering the responsibilities from the national and local level, improving infrastructure, etc. Beside these, in all of these problems tackled down during the years, there does not seem to be any specific policy which aims directly to make the informal agriculture sector to participate into the formal sector.

The Problem in an Actual National and Local Context

Nowadays the extent of the issues of Agriculture Sector for Albania as a country and for Tirana as a prefecture have changed a lot. The main problem where the central and local government are now focused is EU's Accession Criteria. In the scope of these criteria IPARD³ program was finalized and IPARD-2 (2014-2020) is now consolidated. IPARD-like measures are mainly oriented toward modernization of large farms, particularly through the adoption of EU standards for processing and developing better marketing of agricultural and fishery products and increase of investments in the field of agriculture with supporting grants [CITATION

³ Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development.

Zhl15 \ 1033], improvement and development of infrastructure, training and technical assistance [CITATION Eur18 \ 1033]. But keeping in mind the fact that only 10% of the farms are bigger than 2 ha in Albania, or for the case of the Municipality of Tirana where only 188 farmers are registered; these measures do not seem to solve the bigger problem.

Table 1. Farm Sizes – Percentage of Family Farms/Smallholder in Albania

Size of the Farm (ha)	Percentage (%)
0.1 - 0.5	29
0.6 - 1.0	25
1.1 - 2.0	36
> 2.0	10

Source: MBUMK, 2007

Table 2. Number of Registered Farmers in the Municipality of Tirana

Years	2015	2016	2017
Numbers of Farmers	24	115	188

Source: INSTAT (2018)

In accordance with the EU's accession criteria the Municipality of Tirana, orders as some of its objectives in Agricultural Development Objectives for 2012-2017 [CITATION Maz12 \ 1033] as follows:

- Modernization of the farms and marketing of marketable agricultural products throughout the concept of the products under the benchmark “Made in Tirana” by:
- Developing a better infrastructure for linking villages to urban areas which serve as a market for agricultural and livestock products
- Marketing local agricultural products
- Diversifying economic activities in rural areas
- Improving watering system
- Supporting on better supply and value chain for local products
- Applying facilitating fiscal policies for the farmers.

Neither in IPARD, nor in the objectives of the Municipality of Tirana are there any measures taken or intended to be taken about the problem of informality, and the low desire of the smallholders to participate. Even though the problem is existent as part of Albanian society⁴ and even though it is a hot topic discussed in media and everyday life⁵, there does not seem to be any written policy or actual measure regarding this problem

Current Situation

⁴ Albania is placed 89 rank out of 162 countries with an average size of shadow economy of 36.3% (average estimation for the period of time 1999-2007), (Buehn & Schneider, 2010)

⁵ Articles about the topic : <http://www.tirana.al/hapet-tregu-i-ri-te-fruta-perimeve-ne-njesine-administrative-nr-2/>

When it comes to delivering the agricultural products, the problems that a smallholder faces are numerous. These problems are leading the farmers most of the times to either give up production, or affect to an increase in scarcity as a reason of not finding a profitable market. The situation gets as severe as to the fact that the existing problems are somehow “forcing” the farmers to use other informal ways in order to participate in the market etc. Taking into account the current situation in the region of Tirana a farmer has practically two possible ways of participating actively in the market: either sell the products to the collecting point (*for which he/she needs to be formally registered as a farmer*)⁶ or try to sell the products by him/herself (*for which he/she needs to be formally registered as a fixed/ambulant vendor*)⁷. When neither of these options makes him derive any profit, then the farmer may choose to sell the produced marketable agricultural products informally.

Figure 1.



Figure 2.



The actual situation, as mentioned in the previous paragraph lies in between some decision that the farmer or the smallholder faces: 1. *The Collecting Point and/or intermediaries*; 2. *The Public Markets*; 3. *Informality*.

There exists one big private collecting point in the region of Tirana, owned and managed by a private company⁸. Since it is the sole collecting point of the region, this company actually plays the role of a monopoly in the sector. From the interviews we had with some farmers/vendors in the area of the collecting point and from general views put in to light by the media, the actual problems that this situation has created are: charging high rents comparing to the area around; charging higher electricity and water prices for its vendors [CITATION Tre18 \l 1033]; buying the products with low prices from the farmers or villagers; and being in a long distance with some

⁶ See **Appendix 1**: The Procedures of Being Registered as Farmer

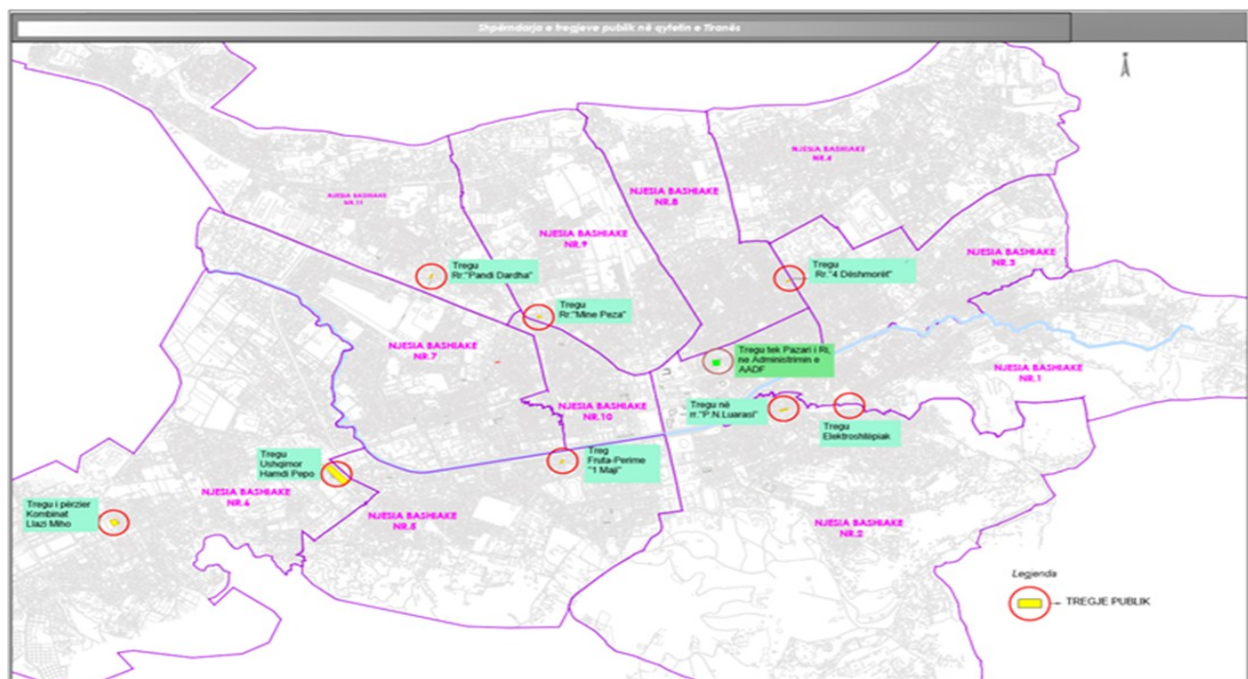
⁷ See **Appendix 1**: The Procedures of Being Registered as a Vendor/Ambulant Vendor

⁸ See Appendix 2 for more information about managing practices in the collecting point.

main rural areas across the region. As for the intermediaries it still happens the same, because they offer low prices compared to the high competitiveness that the local farmers face with imported agricultural products.

Nowadays, in the Municipality of Tirana there are 8 different public markets administered by the Trade Administration Agency, another public market administered by TID (Tirana International Development Sh.p.k), as well as many other small private markets all of which offer selling opportunities for registered vendors or ambulant ones.

Figure 3: Eight Public Markets are administered by the AAT (the Market Administration Agency)



The Trade Administration Agency (AAT), was created as an aiding agency under the surveillance of the Municipality of Tirana in April 2017. It is an agency responsible for: a) monitoring the organization and the progress of daily activities of formal vendors in fixed/moving markets; b) administering all daily issues regarding opening/closing hours and well-functioning of the markets in the Municipality of Tirana; c) administering daily problematics related to infrastructure, physical being and cleaning/hygiene of the markets; d) planning and following investments which aim to improve the infrastructure of the market [CITATION Kes17 \l 1033].

But even though the Municipality follows EU's Accession objectives, and even though there is an agency for trade administration and a tax directorate which collects the taxes from the formal farmers who participate in the market; again various problems raise. In order to collect better information of how the smallholders think and feel; in our study we used the technique of unstructured interviews on the formal vendors/producers of agricultural products and the informal ones. We firstly tried to gather data by doing a survey by asking a questionnaire to the

vendors but this technique considered to be unsuccessful because the sample group we tried asking denied answering. Then, we used the unstructured interview method, by asking a group of 39 (n=39) formal and informal vendors/producers of agricultural product during the time period of July-October 2018. These interviews were held in the regions of Shengjergj, ShenMeri, Ndroq, Pez-Helmes as well as in the formal and informal markets of Tirana. The questions that were asked to the interviewees are as follows:

- What is the approximate amount of the products that you sell in the market?
- Do you go and sell every day at the market?
- Why don't you sell the products in the collecting point?
- Why don't you sell the products in the markets of the Municipality?
- Do you transport the products on your own car or by transportation means?
- Do you afford the rent in the selling points of agricultural markets?
- Are you a registered farmer?

And from the various answers that we got, it was concluded that being formal in a situation when:

1. A small amount of product is produced from the smallholders (taking into consideration that most of the farms are less than 2 ha and usually family-run)
2. Selling seasonal products
3. Not having suitable transportation means to transport the products until the markets,

seem to be more of an extra cost rather than real profit, according to the interviews with the informal street vendors and small producers in the villages of Shengjergj, Shenmeri, Ndroq and Peze Helmes in Tirana county. So most of them choose to be informal instead.

When we talk about informality in the agriculture sector in the Municipality of Tirana we know that it is not a taboo topic. Informality is a topic covered by any media or political discussion in a normal basis and the need to address to it has always been important. But even though of this situation, there has not been a specific measure or policy which has been addressed to the causes that drive the existence of the informality rather than tackling it directly itself. In the early 2000 Tirana was facing a major problem with urban unemployment which lead to a high number of street vendors increased. Keeping the vendors out of the street has always been a struggle that the municipality and the civilians have faced severely. But, starting from 14 August 2015 the municipality and municipality police organized different actions against the illegal occupation of the pavements from street vendors. Such actions have led to many confrontations between vendors and local authorities [CITATION Cel16 \l 1033] and according to different reports they have not been fully successful since ambulant agricultural vendors have just changed places and have been trying to sell in secondary neighborhood roads/pavements instead. A situation which continues till the present. So, the actions to reduce informality by tackling it directly rather than studying the causes of it, has not been successful so far.

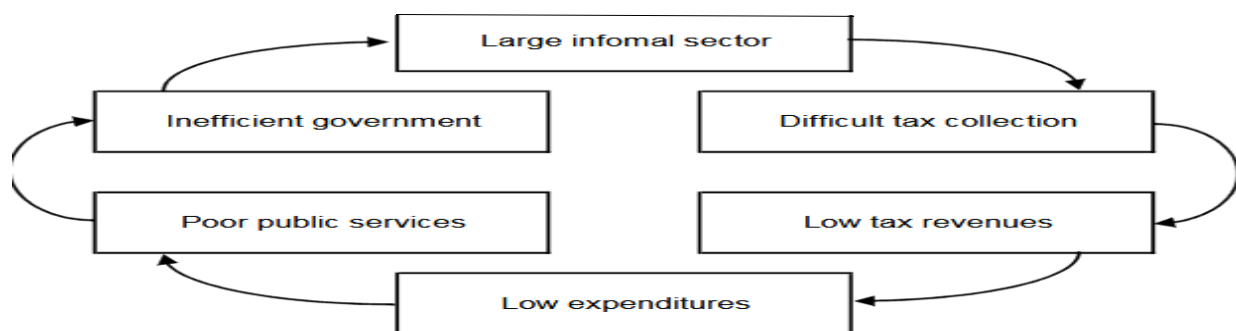
POLICY OPTIONS

Framework of the Analysis

Dealing with informalities has always been a challenging problem for many countries, especially emerging ones since the informal economy has become an important factor in the economic development since it offers significant employment and generates incomes. The way informality is perceived throughout the years has changed too. While in the past the informal economy existed separately from the formal economy, nowadays they are linked together – they produce for each other, trade with and provide services for each other.

Considering the importance that informality has in economy and the deep roots it has in every other sector, a more inclusive developmental approach policy should be implemented. Just accepting the existence of it is not enough, the potential that it offers in terms of job creation and sustainability should be accepted too. “National governments and municipal authorities in many countries generally treat informal economy as undesirable and often target punitive or restrictive policies” [CITATION Hab06 \l 1033]. Punishing directly informality, without recognizing its roots has always been a failed attempt. For example, in the case of the Municipality of Tirana, even though the Municipal Police is in constant follow of informal street vendors the actual situation of informality remains almost the same [CITATION Bal17 \l 1033]. Everybody needs to be conscious to understand that informality in the agriculture sector affects everyone. It resembles to a vicious cycle where not only the informal vendors are affected but the municipality and the residents of the region too.

Figure 4: Vicious Cycle



Source: [CITATION Olt18 \l 1033]

Since informality is an issue that affects many actors, an inclusive policy with a strong enough stimulus to change people's behavior need to be combined with the municipality's (credible) political commitment for creating a reform with the economic agents' recognition of an overall changed environment. *This policy's principal challenge typically relates to the need to have structural reforms implemented at the expense of—typically well-connected—vested interests* [CITATION Olt18 \l 1033].

Local governments especially, find many key challenges regarding the informal economy[CITATION Dav13 \l 1033]:

1. *Acknowledging the importance and presence* of the informal economy (as a key stakeholder or sector in development and local economies) and facilitating changes in attitude towards the informal sector.
2. *Dealing with the complexity and the diversity* within the informal economy or having the right skills, capacity and structures within the local government sector to engage with the informal economy.
3. *Bridging the relationship and communication gap* between local government and informal economy.
4. *Including informal sector issues into local government policies*, regulation and planning processes.
5. *Developing local economic development (LED) friendly policies and by law guidelines* for the informal economy.
6. *Actively engaging the informal economy* in LED.
7. *Involving national departments* in supporting the efforts of local government to develop and implement a more developmental approach towards the informal economy.
8. Vulnerability of informal worker's representation and associations
9. Low literacy rates of the informal locals as for the case of the Municipality of Tirana.

For this reason, it is important to acknowledge the existence of informality and the importance it has in the formal economy; to bridge a relationship with the informality and instead of seeing them as the enemies of the economy, try to include them in formal sector by supporting them with helpful by laws guidelines. Furthermore, what makes the process of policy making more difficult in a situation like Tirana's is the vulnerability of informal worker's representation and associations; a complexity of the process and the low literacy levels especially from the informal workers in farming. From the experience of the Municipality of Tirana we have just seen an action towards the informality when a thorough study of understanding the situation which drives the farmers to informality should have been done.

Evaluation of Policy Alternatives

While formalizing and encouraging stallholders to participate in the formal public markets is clearly a desirable result for the Municipality of Tirana, acknowledge the existence of it as a crucial part of the regional economy is really important, as some other countries' municipalities have done. The municipality should be conscious that the informal agricultural sector affects the employment of labor force, or help smallholder generate revenue which helps somehow the in the economic and social stability of the region. Fighting the informality without presenting first many profitable ways for the (informal) labor force included in it, results in economic instability and creates social problems. Many local government sometimes cannot provide enough pleasant working spaces, working positions or working conditions for all the informal labor force and

smallholders. That is why, fighting what already exist without a backup plan fit to the needs of this group of people may lead to undesirable results for all the actors (municipality, stallholders and consumers). Two of the ways that will help in the situation of the Municipality of Tirana to keep down the numbers of informality is by making it possible to present more competitive opportunities for the farmers/smallholders to sell their marketable agricultural products and to develop specific inclusive policies that tackle informality in their agenda.

Increasing the number of collecting points

One of the factors that either incentivizes the farmers to produce more, or totally discourages them from the production process is the prices of the products. Prices can either be catalysts or deterrents to the food security of the region depending on the side on the point of view of the farmers/producers. On the part of the farmers; a constant rise in prices act as motivation to produce more and increase the revenues as a result of it too. On the contrary, in the case of falling prices: farmers and smallholders will be totally discouraged to produce. Such a situation can [also] eventually lead to food insecurity. In the case of the Municipality of Tirana, there only exist one collecting point, which is managed by a private company and acts as a monopoly in the market of agricultural products. The prices of the products that this company buys from the farmers and smallholders have as a comparable competitive price just the prices of imports, thus leaving no choice for them to either comply to the situation or sell informally (if they can). From the buyers' side, the regulated price of the marketable agriculture products has its negative effects because it leads them to either be forced to buy the products at regulated price, or choose import products over local ones. In this environment, the Municipality of Tirana should make it possible for other collecting points (privately or publically managed) to coexist in the region, find a suitable geographical place for them to be built (closer to the rural areas which have the higher rate of agricultural products) and to build a suitable infrastructure and transportation mean to ease the communication between the areas and the future collecting points.

Implement inclusive policies towards informality in agriculture

A better policy can be made for including the informal sector in the formal one and thus increasing the participation of farmers in the formal markets just by trying to acknowledge and include them in the planning processes. For example in a similar situation to the Municipality of Tirana; in Nairobi, Kenya: the number of street vendors was concerning since the pavements were congested with them which lead the government to invest in the construction of a market 2 km from the city hub of Nairobi, aiming to transform the small scale business of the city and to ease traffic congestion. But even though the investment was made, the project did not end the problem of street vendors since many of them continued to remain on the streets. This problem raised because of the fact that not all stakeholders were consulted throughout the process of construction as well as management of the trade.

In order for the Municipality of Tirana to have better understanding of why the situation is as it is should be to aim to bridge a better communication between them and the farmers and the smallholders of the region. Another good way to acknowledge the problem is by building

policies that support those working in the informal economy too⁹. Thus, trying to make the market fair for the formal and even informal smallholders who are not willing to participate because of the existing lack of access to markets. For example in Tirana current regulations are inconsistent since they only try to focus on revenue collection and restrictive administration so they do not create any support mechanism or enable any environment for the informal economy. It is important that whenever a LED friendly policy is implemented this need to be so for the informal sector too by planning with not for the informal traders.

Regarding the cost of such acts it should be noted that the institutional costs can be higher in this case. Furthermore, in order for each municipality to define the stakeholders of informal farmers and informal vendors by-laws fit to its own situation should be implemented (compared to the existing ones). In most countries the municipalities do not take a developmental approach towards the informal economy seriously which leads all of them into creating measures that are inefficient for solving the problem in the long-run; mostly because they are controversial to be accepted and because prior to their implementation a deep understanding of a situation should exist.

GOALS	Collecting Point	Inclusive Policy
<i>Fairness to Farmers</i>	No	Yes - Aim to include informal smallholders too
<i>Access to Markets</i>	Yes -Only registered farmers and vendors	Yes -Legal farmers -Encourage informal ones to participate
<i>Costs</i>	Low cost since the Municipality delegates the management to private companies	Institutional Costs
<i>Legal Framework</i>	No big changes	Changes in by-laws and policies are required
<i>Acceptability</i>	Already in place but it is a current issue.	Probably controversial
<i>Political Feasibility</i>	Feasible	Needs deep understanding in order to be possible
<i>Institutional Capacity</i>	Capacity already there	Experts need to be hired for implementing relevant policy or provide training

Source: Authors' analysis

⁹ Rationale for a Municipal Policy: SALGA (2002)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

In the Municipality of Tirana, the process of producing and selling agricultural products has faced many issues throughout the transition years. Even though Agriculture sector is crucial for the development of the region's economy (26% of population lives in rural areas and 56.9% of them are employed in the agriculture sector in Tirana region), not so much improvement is done when it comes to increasing the participation of existing farmers in the markets or even more incentivizing new farmers to participate.

A potential or existing farmer in the Municipality of Tirana faces together with the many problems of the sector faces also the following possibilities: 1. Participate by selling in/to the collecting point 2. Using different intermediaries as other bigger farmers to sell their products 3. Participate into the many public markets that there exist. OR choose to sell the agriculture products informally.

The problem of informality has always been an ongoing problem for the Municipality of Tirana, and even though policies fit to the EU's accession criteria are implemented or tried to be implemented, no special *thorough* policy for informality has ever been done (except directly fighting them with the municipality police in order to empty the pavements: which has resulted in temporary results). Having a deeper understanding of how the informal economy operates, its size and how it interacts with formal activity at the community level will aid the Municipality and the policy makers to implement a policy with better outcomes.

The policy for increasing the farmers' number of participation in the agricultural market by decreasing the informality should try to do the following:

1. Understand the needs of the informal economy and acknowledge its special traits.
2. Work together with the informal economy in order to build a fit policy for every stakeholder in the process.
3. Create a favorable policy environment for every smallholder (formal and informal included).
4. Create a favorable regulatory environment by proposing different by-laws which will help a better functioning of the process.
5. Apply flexible taxes and rates, as for example daily rent fees rather than monthly ones or no fee at all in the case of movable markets during different weekdays.
6. Making possible better access to the market by improving the existing infrastructure.

Better inclusive policies are a must when it comes to understand one of the main problem that currently exists in the Municipality of Tirana, that of informality which prevents farmers to participate in agricultural markets. Even though the recommendations suggested may require

specific costs and efforts, they provide a different possibility for understanding the situation better and being a step closer to solving it.

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APPENDIX 1

A farmer is a self-employed agricultural producer who can develop their own activity by its own labor force and by his/her own working tools, in the activity of agricultural, woodland and fishery production. The farmers who sell their product at entrepreneurs, are obliged to register and have their certificate of NIPT (Unique Number of Identification).

The registration process should be done by the farmer him/herself by applying for a NIPT certificate near Drejtoria Rajonale Tatimore (The Regional Tax Directorate) according to the existing laws and administrative organization.

The documents needed in order to complete a registration are: a form completed and signed by the applicant; the original ID or the notarized copy of it attached to the application for registration; a certificate from the Drejtorisë Rajonale të Bujqësisë, Zhvillimit Rural dhe Administrimit të Ujërave (Regional Agricultural Directorate and Water Administration) by which the agricultural production activity of the farmer is certified and acknowledged.

Licensing of the traders, on the other hand, is done by the Licensing Sector, the General Directorate of Legal, Asset and Licensing. Public space occupancy taxes (m² / month) and cleaning fee (1 year) are collected by the General Directorate of Local Taxes and Tariffs / Market Sector. Market development policies are developed by the Market Development Sector at the Directorate of Strategic Projects and Economic Development, in line with the objectives of the sector.

Another possibility for selling in the market is by being an Ambulant Vendor. An ambulant vendor who expresses his interest in trading in a public market in Tirana should submit his request to the Municipality of Tirana. The ambulant seller must be provided with a permit to conduct the activity. After obtaining the permission of the activity granted by the Municipality of Tirana, the ambulant seller should be directed with this specific permission to the Tirana Taxes Directorate and be registered as an ambulant trader and picked out the NIPT as an ambulant vendor.

Once the trader is provided with the NIPT, he is exempt from taxes such as on profit and tax liability. The dealer has to pay the social security and health insurance that are respectively 4700 ALL per month. In addition, the ambulant seller should pay the fee for occupying public space (monthly fee), which is different according to different charging areas. We have three charging zones in the Municipality of Tirana:

- Zone A 1500 lekë/m² per month
- Zone B 750 lekë/m² per month
- Zone C 400 lekë/m² per month

The ambulant seller has to pay a cleaning fee (annual fee) of 3000 Lek per year. The fees and fees mentioned above are collected by DPTTV (Porta Vendore, 2018).

APPENDIX 2

Agricultural Market of Tirana (Collecting Point)

Warehouse supply is carried out daily from 09.00 to 04.00. Supply of the field: (entrance of vans and Lorries up to 8 ml) starts from 20.00 until 03.30 in the morning, after this time no entry of

vans and trucks on the field is allowed. Supply Facility G: (Goods of Local Producers of Tirana Administrative Unit) starts at 23:00 until 04:00 in the morning. Warehouses and vans open their daily activity of selling agri-food products around 02.00 am and close according to the work of each magazine or subject in the field, but no later than 15.00 to 16.00. The sale of the villagers' goods to G begins after 02.00 and ends at 11.00 every day. Buyers from Tirana and other units of the country enter the market from 01.00 am to 16.00 pm every day.

ADDRESS Highway TR-DR, Km 1, Secondary Street, Kashar, Tirana.