



“Chestnut Day in Tropoja”

For prosperity and sustainable development of the community in the “Bjeshket e Namuna” area

On behalf of the SNV project **“Sustaining Rural Communities and their Traditional Landscapes Through Strengthened Environmental Governance in Transboundary Protected Areas of the Dinaric Arc”** with the initiative and cooperation of the local action group **“Bjeshket e Namuna”** has been organized and promoted the **“Chestnut Day in Tropoja”** on 22-23.10.2011.

Once all the participants reached in Tropoja, two cultural trips have taken place:

- First visit was at Tower of “Mic Sokoli”, where the tour guide informed all participants on its history
- Second visit was at Vredha e Shushanit and Mill of Currit

After the cultural trips, the welcome dinner started where the participants had the chance to taste the traditional kitchen which was accompanied by the traditional music and bards who created an existing atmosphere for all participants.



Chestnut Session: 23.10.2011

The activity was attended by representatives of Ministry of agriculture, food and consumer protection , Department of Rural Development Policies- Management Authority of IPARD, Ministry of Environment, forests and water management, MADA, Club of Nuts from Peshkopi, Prefecture of Kukes, Region of Kukes, Municipality of Bajram Curri, LAG of Prokletije, Commune of Bujan, Margegaj, Task Force of Government, chestnut businessmen of Tropoja, Regional Agency of Environment and Forestry in Tirana, University of Agriculture-Tiranes, Agriculturists, NGO, Chamber of Commerce Tropoje as well as Association for Development of Agriculture in Diber ADAD.

At the entrance of the venue where the meeting was held a group of young professionals performed the traditional dancing of Tropoja to welcome all the participants.

To promote the chestnut the LAG “Bjeshket e Nemuna” organized a scientific session for the chestnut, where representatives from Ministry of agriculture, MADA, Regional Agency of Environment and Forestry in Tirana, Coordinator of LAG “Bjeshket e Nemuna” had the president of AMLA company.

During the scientific session have been treated the issues below:

- LAG of “Bjeshket e Namuna” and its role as an instrument for sustainable economic development of the area. Presentation of a project financed by MADA on revitalization of chestnut massive in the Comunne of Bujan;
- Particular values of chestnuts of Tropoja. Economic potentials inside and outside the country and improvement of the quality of life for the community;
- Ways to prevent the diseases of the chestnuts;
- Ways used by the private sector to build the facilities to transform, gather and process the chestnut Puna e SNV ne sektorin e arroveve ne Shqiperi, arritje, sfida dhe perspektiva



At the end of the session the floor was given to the participants to discuss and ask questions related to the presentations held. The issues raised for discussion were:

1. Improvement of the chestnut production and especially improvement of the chestnuts seedlings
2. Issues related to the right of usage of the communal forest
3. Registration of the communal forests and chestnuts
4. Standardization of the chestnut surface data in Albania
5. Making inventory of chestnut surface
6. Cooperation between MADA and SNV to give technical assistance and expertise to LAG
7. The role of the LAG on the economic development of the area
8. Future activities of LAG "Bjeshket e Nemuna" (not based only on agriculture) but also based on the support of biodiversity, cultural and natural heritage.

The activity has been published at:

1. Voice of America:
<http://www.voanews.com/albanian/news/Alb-SHQiperi-Tropoja-festa-geshtenja-ekonomia-2011-10-24-132470998.html>
2. Albanian TV
3. Deutsche Welle
4. Local TV Bajram Curri
5. BBC