



Country Report on-farm demonstration in Bulgaria

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICE (NAAS)
BULGARIA

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Topics of demonstration

- Organic farming;
- Animal breeding
- Beekeeping;
- Crops and trees;
- Cereal sector;
- Plant cultivation;
- Technologies in animal breeding and plan production.

Providers and purpose of demonstration

Providers:

- Farmers;
- Advisory Service;
- Research institutions;
- Agrarian universities;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Supply chain companies;
- Associations.

Purpose:

- To engage farmers to use specific product and to show the result;
- To showcase technic in plant production and animal breeding;
- To showcase innovation in specific sector.

History

The history of demonstration activities in Bulgaria in the field of agriculture is divided into two periods, differing mainly on the ownership of agricultural land:

- The 1st is until year 1989 (state property of the land). It started the period of socio-economic change in the countries of Eastern Europe, including Bulgaria;
- The 2nd is after 1990, when private commercial companies for machinery, seeds, preparations for agricultural production start to enter the agricultural sector and make demonstrations in private farms and cooperatives;
- NAAS starts the organization of demonstrations after its establishment in year 1999.



Types of Demonstrations

- Oral presentations;
- Demonstration display (e.g. equipment, machinery);
- Field trials;
- On-farm;
- Farm-field walks (peer observation).

Access Issues

- Most demonstration are organized in well-developed agricultural regions. Only NAAS organizes demonstrations on the territory of a whole country because it has regional offices in every district;
- More men participated in demonstration, but there are also demonstrations, on which distribution men/women is 50/50.
- More young farmers (up to 40 years) participated in demonstration, but there are also many demonstrations, on which participate older farmers between 40 and 55 years.

Other Issues

- Almost all demonstrations are free of charge to all participants;
- Popular ways for promotion of demonstration activities are individual contacts, e-mails and internet;
- The results are disseminated through specialised presses, emails, social media and websites;
- Participants in demonstrations are farmers and in rare cases are consumers and students.

Distinguishing Characteristics

- The focus of demonstration is on single technologies;
- Common demonstration between farmers and NAAS, agrarian universities and supply chain companies;
- Demonstration of new plant varieties, animal breeds and technologies for plant cultivation and animal breeding tested in experimental stations and experimental fields.



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