

## ECONOMIC EFFECT OF LAND FRAGMENTATION ON FARM PRODUCTIVITY

Emine Daci Zejnullahi<sup>1\*</sup>, Mufail Salihaj<sup>1</sup>, Medin Zeqiri<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Food Sciences and Biotechnology, UBT- Higher Education Institution,  
Kalabria nn, 10000 Pristina, Kosovo

\*e-mail: emine.daci@ubt-uni.net

### Abstract

There are not many studies conducted related to land fragmentation in the entire country and in particular at different farm levels. Most of the studies in Kosovo are focused on Agriculture and other related issues, which ignores the land fragmentation issues and structure even if it is crucial for productivity. This paper is focused on the study of the relationship between land fragmentations, structure, and impact on farm productivity in Kosovo.

The study was based on data collected through a paper questionnaire, which was conducted through face-to-face discussion with representatives of 444 households, which were randomly selected from the Dukagjini region covering the municipalities of Peja, Gjakova, and Prizren. Regarding the theoretical review, we have analyzed studies related to the: influence of various factors such as biophysical factors (climate, soil fertility etc.) and socio-economic (preferences, prices, production objectives, etc.) related to the treatment of farms and labor investments, structure, fragmentation, infrastructure and markets, and management practices. The collected data were processed using the software program SPSS 17. To calculate the productivity of farms we have used the clustering model.

As the researchers studied, also in our research results show strong correlations between fragmentation and productivity. Land fragmentation seems to be correlated to farm productivity. In order to measure the correlation between the two variables researched at the beginning we have that farms as we have grouped farms into 6 different clusters such as field crops, permanent crops, grazing livestock, mixed crops, mixed livestock, and mixed crops-livestock. Analysis of six different clusters has shown that farm fragmentation and other factors have affected their productivity. Other key factors that were found to significantly affect farm productivity in combination with farm fragmentation are the agricultural education of the farmers, management, and the farm structure.

Policymakers should issue administrative instructions for the protection of land areas from further fragmentation as in many countries around the world, reducing the level of fragmentation of agricultural farms, developing and implementing policies for land consolidation, land consolidation, and protection against change of destination is an immediate need. Increasing cooperation between farmers would affect several aspects: increasing net income per unit of employment, reducing costs per unit of production (the effect of economies of scale), and also investing in the profiling of agricultural farms.

**Keywords:** Land fragmentation, Farm structure, cluster method, Dukagjini region, and farm productivity.