



AGRIDEMO



FARMDEMO



PLAID

# Country Report for Greece

Alex Koutsouris<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Email: [Koutsouris@aua.gr](mailto:Koutsouris@aua.gr)

Yiorgos Alexopoulos<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Email: [yiorgos.alexopoulos@gmail.com](mailto:yiorgos.alexopoulos@gmail.com)



ΓΕΩΠΟΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ  
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

## Topics of demonstration

Arable crops, olive and fruit trees, and vegetable

- Integrated pest management/crop protection
- Soil fertility
- Water/irrigation management
- Low input farming
- Climate change mitigation & adaptation
- Biodiversity and nature management
- technology

Small ruminants breeding (sheep/goat) and bee keeping:

- Climate change mitigation & adaptation
- Biodiversity and nature management
- Pasture management
- Dairy food processing

## Providers and purpose of demonstration

Research institutions initiated and provided the majority of demonstrations in the inventory, the remaining being a NGO/charitable organisation and a commercial company.

Respondents prioritized, as the demos purpose, knowledge creation, training and information sharing (30%). An additional ¼ worked on environmental and/or nature conservation. Innovation uptake/development has a 12% share with another 9% reporting research implementation. General references to local development and strengthening of farming communities/farm families account for 18% of responses. The remaining 9% indicates product sales as the purpose of demonstration, reflecting the reasons behind events initiated by, the under-represented in the inventory category of, commercial/supply chain companies.

## History

Demonstration fields and model farms are gradually introduced in Greece only after the establishment of the Directorate of Agricultural Extension of the Ministry of Agriculture, in 1929. It was not before the mid-50's, though, when demonstration plots have been heavily supported, with 297 extensionists involved reporting 13,334 demonstrations on improved cultivation methods of all kinds, attended by 130,832 farmers all over the country. This trend remained till late 60's. The decreasing role of public extension services in the years to come reflect on the demos held, which resulted to no relevant activities held from the 90' onwards. During the last decades, demonstration activities are mainly the result of research projects or initiated and/or supported by commercial companies.



## Types of Demonstrations

- On-farm (commercial/charitable/public farms)
- Off-farm – data analysis
- Hands on farm
- Field walk
- Field trips
- Discussion groups

## Access Issues

**Gender:** Men are reported as the vast majority of participants in demonstration activities accounting for at least 75% of overall attendance. Female holders were reported as a majority only in one event which focused on traditional dairy food products processing, meaning that with the appropriate focus on topics female participation can be indeed facilitated.

**Age:** All but two organisations reported that participants in organised demos were not in a specific age class. In the remaining cases, in the first one participants were reported to be between 40-55 years old, while one organisation focused only on young farmers (25-40 years old).

**Geography:** Demonstration activities are concentrated in areas where either research institutions or commercial companies hold their main activity. However, despite the local/regional focus, demo topics are reported to have a national coverage in more than 40% of demonstrations activities.

## Other Issues

The reduced, or even complete absence of, activity of public extension services in the last decades has resulted to a landscape of demonstrations which is shaped by either research funding/programmes or supply chain commercial companies interests. While the first stream of work is largely focusing on sustainability and technical issues and follows a whole farm approach, the market-led related activities focus on single practices and target farmers as endUsers of input and planting material.

## Distinguishing Characteristics

- Public/research funding has been indicated as the primary funder in 60% of cases with the remaining 40% being funded by supply chain companies.
- The reduced, or even complete absence of, activity of public extension services in the last decades has resulted to a landscape of demonstrations which is shaped by either research funding/programmes or supply chain commercial companies interests.
- The first stream of work is largely focusing on sustainability and technical issues and follows a whole farm approach; the market-led related activities focus on one or a few single practices and/or new planting material, and target farmers as endUsers of input and planting material.
- Priority remains to engage farmers in hosting demonstrations and cultivate farmer-to-farmer interaction and peer learning activities.
- To this end public funding, in scheduled and/or additional streams of work, could be instrumental.



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