

## Evaluation of the pitsillia integrated rural development project in the sub-region: Eftagonia-Sykopetra-Ora

Ananika A., Mohtaseb M., Papayiannis C.

in

Nikolaidis A. (ed.), Baourakis G. (ed.), Stamataki E. (ed.).  
Development of mountainous regions

Chania : CIHEAM

Cahiers Options Méditerranéennes; n. 28

1997

pages 115-123

Article available on line / Article disponible en ligne à l'adresse :

<http://om.ciheam.org/article.php?IDPDF=CI020521>

To cite this article / Pour citer cet article

Ananika A., Mohtaseb M., Papayiannis C. **Evaluation of the pitsillia integrated rural development project in the sub-region: Eftagonia-Sykopetra-Ora.** In : Nikolaidis A. (ed.), Baourakis G. (ed.), Stamataki E. (ed.). *Development of mountainous regions*. Chania : CIHEAM, 1997. p. 115-123 (Cahiers Options Méditerranéennes; n. 28)



<http://www.ciheam.org/>  
<http://om.ciheam.org/>

# **EVALUATION OF THE PITSILLIA INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE SUB-REGION: EFTAGONIA-SYKOPETRA-ORA**

Alexandra Ananika  
Majdi Mohtaseb  
Christos Papayiannis

---

## **KEYWORDS**

Highlands, Integrated Rural Development, Project Design, Cyprus

---

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SYKOPETRA VILLAGE BEFORE THE PROJECT**

Sykopetra village is in the Limassol District. The village representatives are: Andreas Panagis - President of the local authorities; Neofytos Trifonas - member of local committee, responsible for health; Vasilis Panagiotou - member of Irrigation Association.

Its population is 186 inhabitants (comprising the inhabitants of the Profitis Elias village)

**Agriculture:** small cultivated areas

- no irrigation, rainfall production

**Plantation:** 24,12 ha mandarins  
13,4 ha vines  
6,7 ha deciduous trees  
4,7 ha seasonal vegetables

## **DIFFICULTIES FACED BEFORE THE PITSILLIA INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT (P.I.R.D.) PROJECT**

- no access to their farm lands since there were no farm roads to satisfy all plantations
- no modern technology in the agricultural methods
- time & effort: loss of working hours
- donkeys as a means of transportation and as the only means of access to the farms. Every family used to own a donkey.

**HEALTH:**

- No health center. No doctor in the village. The nearest doctor was 6 km away but there were major problem with the roads.

**EDUCATION:**

- The existing elementary school had to close since the number decreased (1983)
- The 23 remaining pupils should go to the Peripheral Elementary School.

**POPULATION:**

- Problem of depopulation. Tendency to migrate to cities.

**MAJOR WORKS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE PITSILIA INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT (P.I.R.D.) PROJECT**

- 1 borehole
- Road to Limassol
- Farm Roads
- Land Use: irrigation land
- Irrigation Association

**BENEFITS OF THE PITSILIA INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT (P.I.R.D.) PROJECT**

**AGRICULTURE:**

- a) Land Use:
  - additional irrigated land 6,7 ha cultivated area increase
  - modern technology in farming techniques e.g. each farmer now has a small tractor (2 wheels, soil cultivation) instead of donkeys. The government provides subsidised bulldozers for land leveling and terracing. The farmers can use them for 6.5 pounds per hour.
  - new plantations: mandarins, apple trees, cherry trees farmer's income increase
- b) Irrigation Associations:
  - Now the plantations do not depend on rainfall. The farmers use modern irrigation systems e.g. drop irrigation technique. Irrigation Associations have been established to satisfy the needs of the farmers and increase the cultivated areas. The Association of the village is under the Limassol authorities. In Limassol there is a district officer who appoints a district inspector and an assistant district inspector. The Sykopetra Irrigation Association is a Committee of 3 members. In this way, the active participation of the locals is assured.
- c) Road:
  - Connection with towns and neighbouring villages
  - Farm roads, access to the farm lands
  - Easy transportation
  - Agronomists and experts can visit the village and offer their services + information

**HEALTH:**

The project did not include the founding of a Health center but due to the roads construction it is easier to visit the doctor of the closest village (6 km).

**EDUCATION:**

A bus is provided for the students' transportation to the Peripheral School.

**POPULATION:**

4 new young families have decided to stay in the village. Many others that have migrated to the towns are visiting the village on week-ends.

**COMMENT**

Sykopetra is a small village and so are the benefits of the project, in comparison with the other villages of the Pitsillia area.

**FURTHER NEEDS**

1. Sewage System. A study has being done which found that the cost estimation of such a system would be 50,000 pounds, 20% of which would be the contribution of the farmers. There is a plan for the reduction of the farmers contribution to 10%.
2. Farm Roads. Their number should be increased. The production cannot be sold everywhere with the existing roads.
3. Land owned by the state should be given to poor families.
4. Plan for the youth in order to remain in the village.
5. Health. The buses that are used for the transportation of students could be also used for transporting old people to the doctor every 15 days.

**EFTAGONIA - LIMASSOL DISTRICT**

Village Representatives: Peter Charalambous: President of the local authority  
 Glaukos Loukaidis: Civil servant - Dept of Agriculture

Population: 400 inhabitants (60 of them are retired)

Plantation: mandarins, seasonal vegetables, citrus

**DIFFICULTIES FACED BEFORE THE P.I.R.D. PROJECT****AGRICULTURE:**

- small cultivated areas
- no irrigation, rainfed production
- no access to the farm lands
- no modern technology in the agricultural methods
- time and effort : loss of working hours

**HEALTH:**

- No health center. No doctor in the village

**POPULATION:**

- Depopulation

**MAJOR WORKS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE P.I.R.D. PROJECT**

- 4 ponds
- (only private boreholes)
- Land Use (107,2 ha)
- Irrigation Association
- Farm Roads 15-20 km

**BENEFITS OF THE P.I.R.D. PROJECT****AGRICULTURE:**

- a) Land Use:
  - the cultivated area increased from 20,1 ha to 107,2 ha, which are all covered by irrigation system
  - modern technology in farm techniques; every farmer has his own small tractor and some of them have big tractors (4 wheels, soil cultivation, mount sprayer, tank for pesticide) farmers income increase.
- b) Irrigation associations: The Irrigation Association is a committee with 5 members under the Limassol authorities

- c) Road: Through the project farm roads of 15 km have been constructed. Now 90% of the cultivated land has a farm road.

The project did not plan the construction of a road to connect the village with the big cities. Despite this fact roads have been built at a later stage. It could be suggested that the development of the area through the project was the factor that encouraged the government to build a road. In other words, the road was a consequence of the project although not originally planned.

- d) Services: An agronomic office was founded in the village with permanent staff to help and advise farmers and introduce new farming techniques.

#### **HEALTH:**

- A doctor visits the village every 15 days. In case of emergency the closest doctor is in Limassol.

#### **EDUCATION:**

- A bus is provided to transport the students to the Peripheral School.

#### **POPULATION:**

- Increasing tendency of the people to stay in the village.

#### **Further needs**

1. Problem of distributing their products, organisation of the market. The main crop is mandarins which cannot be absorbed by the markets. The farmers should be convinced to change their plantations to more profitable fruits, e.g. Mandora (Ortanique). according to the P.I.R.D. project the government encouraged the farmers to plant Mandora but the farmers were not convinced, they were afraid of the changes.

2. Need for standby boreholes. During drought periods the water for irrigation is not sufficient.

3. Health Center

**ORA - LARNAKA DISTRICT**

Village Representatives: President of the local authority  
President of the Youth Center

Population: 200 inhabitants

Plantation: olive oil trees, carob trees (Saint-John beans), almond trees, citrus, some deciduous trees

**DIFFICULTIES FACED BEFORE THE P.I.R.D. PROJECT****AGRICULTURE:**

- seasonal crops depending on rainfall
- small cultivated areas
- no irrigation and as a result the plantation of vines was very popular
- potable water available to the population only one hour per day
- no access to farmlands
- no modern technology in agricultural methods
- time and effort consuming

**HEALTH:**

- No health center. No doctor.

**POPULATION:**

- depopulation

**MAJOR WORKS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE P.I.R.D. PROJECT**

- 1 pond
- 2 boreholes
- Road ORA-LAILA 7-8 km
- Road to towns
- Land Use
- Irrigation Association

**BENEFITS OF THE P.I.R.D. PROJECT****AGRICULTURE:**

- a) Land Use:
  - additional irrigated land
  - different plantations. Now they do not depend on seasonal crops, they can produce throughout the whole year
  - 22,11 ha of citrus and deciduous trees
  - modern technology in farming techniques

- cultivated area increase farmer's income increase
- b) Irrigation Association established under the Larnaka district
- c) Roads:
  - straightening and asphalt on the road to Laila (7- 8 km)
  - connection with big cities. Now they need 40 minutes to get to Larnaka while before it took them 2 hours.
  - farm roads, access to the farm lands
- d) Corporations: Now there are two corporations: for carob trees and for olive trees(SEKEP)
- e) Private Sector: The P.I.R.D. plan encouraged (consultation and loans) the private sector to establish new projects, as for example a fully integrated poultry unit which undertakes the whole process from production to retail.

#### **HEALTH:**

- Once every 15 days a doctor visits the village. The nearest Health Center is in Lefkara (15 km distance)

#### **EDUCATION:**

- An elementary School was founded (20 pupils from the village and 8 from the neighbouring village)
- Peripheral Kindergarten
- Youth Center establishment

#### **• POPULATION:**

- Increasingly people stay in the village.

#### **Further needs**

1. Soil conservation works. For this purpose the subsidies should be increased.
2. Small industrial units to keep population in the village and increase the farmer's income.
3. Health Center
4. Kindergarten



**SYKOPETRA - EFTAGONIA - ORA; AN OVERALL APPROACH****GENERAL DIFFICULTIES BEFORE THE P.I.R.D. PROJECT****AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

- small cultivated area
- limited agricultural production
- rainfed agriculture planting
- old planting methods
- difficulties in transferring the agriculture production and marketing it
- small income from agriculture production loss of working hours and more effort to cultivate the land

**SOCIAL SECTOR**

- closed society, difficult to communicate with other villages or towns
- no modern services provided
- lack of health services
- no facilities for education
- no motive to keep the youth in the villages
- no associations, youth clubs and sport facilities
- no provision for women - employment other social activities

**TOTAL BENEFITS OF THE P.I.R.D. PROJECT IN THE THREE VILLAGES****AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

- additional irrigated land
- increase of cultivated area
- more agricultural production
- modern farming techniques
- more efficient transfer of the production and easier to market it (roads)
- increase of farmer's income
- gain in time and effort
- the farmers organised themselves into associations, cooperatives

**SOCIAL SECTOR**

- society becomes more "open" since it is easier to communicate with other villages and towns
- modern services such as agronomic offices
- health services easier to be provided
- better access to education
- motives for the young people to stay in the villages e.g. Youth Centers
- society began to be more sensitive to environmental issues

***Project provisions for the three villages***

- Boreholes (1 Sykopetra, 4 Ora)
- Ponds (1 Ora, 4 Eftagonia)
- Farm roads (7-8 km Ora, 15-20 km Eftagonia, 5 km Sykopetra)
- Main roads (in all)
- Land Use (in all)
- Irrigation Associations (in all)

***Strategic plans for the further development of the area;******Recommendations***

1. The government should undertake demonstration practices to encourage and convince farmers to adopt new farming techniques and to plant new crops, in other words to adopt changes.
2. The government should help the farmers to form their own marketing co-operatives. This will lead to the elimination of the middle-man and to the increase of the farmer's incomes.
3. The farmer's should exercise food processing practices e.g. local wines, jams, privately or through co-operations. This is to say : integration from production to retailing.
4. Environment. The government should provide a plan for planting of pine trees and creation of forests. This could be done for example in areas with abandoned vines.
5. Bio-diversity. A government programme should be launched in order to protect the local flora.
6. Tourism. Facilities for recreation, restaurants, forests, renovated houses in the traditional way etc. should be envisaged and inspired by the government.
7. Women. Programs to activate women in the villages, e.g. women co-operations, social activities.