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First report for Bulgaria**

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1. An introduction to the rural areas of Bulgaria

Definition of rural areas in Bulgaria.

There is no general accepted definition of rural areas in Bulgaria. Division of the country by type of residence: rural or urban has been based on the formal categorization of settlements as either villages or towns. While a large number of small towns are rural, based on their general characteristics they are, nevertheless, classified as part of urban areas. The municipal centres are usually towns, while other settlements in the same municipality fall in the category of villages. In the National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan 2000-2006 /NARDP/ the rural areas are defined as municipality with a population of less than 30 000 people, and a population density below 150 people per sq. km.

Key structural characteristics of rural areas in Bulgaria

Rural areas have traditionally played an important role in the Bulgarian economy and in maintaining social stability. The rural areas cover 90 371 sq. km., or about 81% of the country. The rural population is estimated in NARDP at 3.6 million, incl. 2.2 million in the villages. The density of population in rural areas is estimated at 40 people per sq. km compared to the country's average of 74.6 people per sq. km.

Out of 262 municipalities in Bulgaria, 229 are located in rural areas. The number of settlements in rural areas is estimated at 5,307. Rural municipalities are identified as well-defined systems of settlements/villages clustered around a municipality centre, which may be a bigger village or a small town. The number of villages in one municipality may vary between 134 and one. Villages in Bulgaria are classified as very small, small, medium, large, and very large. The average density of rural settlements in Bulgaria is 3.75 villages per 100 sq. km.

Rural areas depend primarily on farming as the major form of economic activity, and to a lesser extent on forestry, craftsmanship and rural tourism. Farm land in rural areas amounts to 5,133 thousands ha and accounts for 83% of the total agricultural land. Forest land covers 3 160 thousands ha and represents 83% of the country's total forest area. The working age population in rural areas amounts to 1 931 079 or 52% of rural population; some 28% of the rural population is above working age. Natural population growth in rural areas runs negative at -9.6%, due both to the higher death rate and the lower birth rate compared to the country's average. Over the 1994 – 1997 period the rate of migration from towns to villages ran positive as a result of expectations of improved living conditions in villages, which in turn largely offset the deteriorating demographic indicators there. The 1992 census data indicate that the share of people with a higher level of education (university degree, college, technical schools and secondary education) was rather high, though indeed lower than the country's average.

Rural Economy

In the 1980s, in order to prevent the depopulation of some rural areas, as well as to mitigate emerging regional income disparities, the Government initiated several programmes for the development of rural areas. These programmes were mainly focused on developing infrastructure and alternative employment opportunities in less developed peripheral municipalities as well as programmes for the development of some mountainous regions in border regions. The economic and social measures included the promotion of in-migration to target areas, the creation of subsidiaries of large state enterprises; subsidies to newly married couples for housing; subsidies for the development of small towns and villages; and price premiums for agricultural production. As a result rural industry of the multi-functional type was developed, including food processing, timber, textiles and knitwear, electronics, and machine building, typically located in small to medium-sized enterprises.

With the start up of the reforms these measures were gradually abandoned, but were not substituted for by a more consistent rural development policy. One reason was that at the beginning of the reform it was believed that an active regional policy might negatively affect the process of macro-economic stabilization, especially in view of the budgetary deficit. Some of the agricultural sector related policy

instruments (e.g. tobacco sector) aimed to prevent the deterioration in the economic situation in rural areas, and especially in the mountainous border regions. However, as a result of different natural conditions, as well as economic development in the last decade, significant regional disparities emerged in living standards, employment, infrastructure, etc. The collapse of the command economy and the follow-up radical economic reforms triggered the liquidation of enterprises, which in turn resulted in a drastic reduction in rural employment. Many small private farms have emerged instead, relying on self-sufficiency. The situation in some municipalities became critical and this led to the introduction of additional policy measures and instruments. Some acts related to regional development were adopted: Law on Administrative and Spatial Structures (1995, amended in 1999), the Law on Local Self-government and Local Administration (amended in 1999), Rural Development Law (March 1999). In October 1999 the first National Regional Development Plan was adopted by the Council of Ministers.

2. Annotated bibliography

Axis 1: Competitiveness of agricultural and forestry sectors

Citation	Angelova, M. and Rissina, M. (2003), Factors of Competitiveness of Cereals Production in Bulgaria, <i>Sofia - Problems of Agribusiness in Bulgaria during the Pre-Accession Period</i> , 98-106. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	<p>In the report is an analysis of the action of production factors on the level of competitiveness of the main kinds of wheat, maize and barley. The conclusion is that their influence is predominately negative. First, in created conditions, they reduce the yields and hold them at levels that cannot guarantee the necessary competitiveness. Second, this leads to lower the quality of the produced cereals and that also reduces the competitiveness.</p> <p>The profitability calculated on the basis of two different sources of information for the prime cost of the cereals, show different results. The level of profitability, calculated on the base of the information provided by SAPI Ltd., gives reason to conclude that, in the interior market, the conditions for competitiveness are positive for the wheat and partly for the maize and barley.</p> <p>On the basis of data provided by the second source of information (Bulletin of information ? 2, Kovacheva, Tzv. and Rissina, M.) the rentability of all analysed kinds of cereals and all analysed years is a negative quantity. In this situation measures should taken for the stabilisation of cereal production in the country and to overcome the loss, and then the question of the competitiveness on the interior and the exterior market can be addressed.</p>

Citation	Atanassova, M. (2003). Problems of the Production and the Competitiveness of the Sunflower in Bulgaria, <i>Sofia - Problems of Agribusiness in Bulgaria during the Pre-Accession Period</i> , 115-124. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	<p>The sunflower has a strategic importance for satisfying the interior necessities of the country and exportation of moderate quantities for the international market. In the last 10-15 years the surfaces of sunflower sharply increased, but this reflected unfavourably on the territorial disposition and with the worse situation of the agrotechnics led to a drop of the yields with 40-50% and to a lowering of the quality of the produced sunflower grain.</p> <p>The trade prices of sunflower grain vary in the large range, but as a whole in the last years they approach the farmers' prices in the USA, and they are a little lower than the exportation prices. At this stage the sunflower is not competitive enough at the interior and the world markets.</p> <p>The analysis of the factors defining the competitiveness shows that the main reserves rely on the amelioration of the agrotechnics; territorial disposition; variety composition; insurance of temporary sowing with quality grain; realisation of all cultivations; insurance of effective plant defence; and optimal norms of fertilization. These</p>

	conditions would realize approximate yields of 140-150 kg having good oiliness, The production costs for a unit of production would decrease with 30-40% and the competitiveness of the sunflower would reach a satisfying level.
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Citation	Kovacheva, Tsv. (2005). Competitive Positions of Milk Products at the Domestic Market, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , L, 1, 22-29. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	<p>Bulgaria's accession to the European Union (EU) in less than two years will make our domestic market of milk products a part of the integrated European market. This means that the customs barriers will be lifted and the Bulgarian producers will be exposed to the competitive pressure of the firms from remaining EU members. The enquiry into the domestic market of milk products immediately before the accession to the EU and the uncoverage of the acting therefore determinants of the competitiveness will give us the landmarks concerning the perspectives of this sector at the integrated European market. The objective of this study is to uncover the competitive positions of the milk products in our domestic market and the factors which impact them, as well as to sketch the measures for the preservation of their competitiveness in the frames of the integrated European market.</p> <p>As a criterion concerning the competitive positions of Bulgarian milk products at our domestic market before accession there is chosen the traced out trend of the level, evolution and structure of import and its influence over the production in the milk sector. The study covers the period of 1989-2003 and in greater detail the last five years of the period.</p>

Citation	Slavova, Y, (2003), The Agricultural Exportation – Dependant not only on the Market, but also on the Competitiveness of the Production, <i>Sofia - Problems of Agribusiness in Bulgaria during the Pre-Accession Period</i> , 82-89. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	In the report are examined the problems related to the condition and the development of the agricultural exportation on the international markets. The relation between the market and the competitiveness of the production is analysed. It is proved that at the end of the period the crisis is transformed from market into production, because the quantity and the quality of the production are insufficient, and they are based on the non-realization of preferential quotas for importation of Bulgarian goods – fruits, vegetables, and live animals in the EU. The possibilities for agricultural exportation in the market of the industrial-developed countries are examined. The directions of the increase of the competitiveness of agricultural production and the necessity of serious investments for their restoration in the period until the integration to the EU are indicated.

Citation	Slavova, Y. (2005). Agricultural Imports and the Challenges Regarding Bulgarian Agriculture, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , L, 2, 3-8. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	<p>The European Commission confessed that Bulgaria has a functioning market economy and that in the short term it can meet the competitive pressure of the European markets. In order to estimate to which extent the Agricultural sector is ready to meet this pressure after deep crisis in which of it fell as a result of the agricultural reform, it is necessary to study the problems of competitiveness at the domestic market. The condition of agricultural imports is one of its important indicators.</p> <p>The aim of the author of the present article is to analyse the size, development and the structure of agricultural imports and to sketch the problems related to the competitiveness of the Bulgarian agricultural commodities at the domestic market.</p> <p>The study treats the different roles which the import can have depending on its destination. The trends and structure of imported goods are studied. An unfavourable uncessing increase of imports concerning products which Bulgaria has been a net exporter (fruits and vegetables) is observed. There are uncovered the problems which decrease the competitiveness of Bulgarian agricultural commodities at the domestic market.</p>

Citation	Velichkova, D. (2005). Concerning the Sales Problems of Bulgarian Bioproducts in View of the Experience of West European Countries, <i>Agricultural economics and management</i> , L, 1, 57-61. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	<p>The success of the Bulgarian bioproducts producers at the international and the domestic markets depends not only on the competitiveness of their products but also on their marketing strategy choice. Since the consumers do not receive subsidies so that they buy bioproducts, the marketing strategy of the Bulgarian bioproducts producers must be so developed that it gives them an opportunity to influence market demand through the instruments of market management. The consumer must be stimulated and motivated to buy bioproducts. In the presented article there are analysed the possible marketing instruments which would stimulate the demand of the Bulgarian bioproducts at the domestic and at the foreign market. The choice of efficient market instruments through which the consumer can be motivated and stimulated to buy Bulgarian bioproducts is made after the experience of the West European countries is analysed.</p> <p>The experience of the West European countries shows that efficient marketing instruments which would help the achievement of the sales of Bulgarian bioproducts at the foreign and domestic markets are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - large-scale information campaigns concerning the uniqueness and high quality of the bioproducts carried out by Bulgarian agrofirms with the assistance of the State; - development of a well functioning system for the control and certification of bioproducts in order to guarantee the high quality of the Bulgarian bioproducts; - creation and imposition of a nation wide trade mark for bioproducts which would push consumer trust; - assuring bioproducts sales mainly through supermarkets and trade centers; - formation of such a price of bioproducts in which there would be calculated a margin concerning higher quality not greater than 50% in comparison to the price of agricultural products attained by conventional agriculture. <p>The implementation of these marketing instruments will make the Bulgarian producers become generators of changes in the market and this would guarantee their success at the foreign as well as the domestic market.</p>

Axis 2: Improving the environment and countryside

Citation	Asparuhov, ?. (2005). Wood industry, sustainable status and development of the forestry, <i>Bulletin Wood</i> , 6, 2-4. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	<p>In this article are reviewed the failures in Bulgarian wood industry. They arise as a result of weaknesses and mistakes in the principles of organization and management of our wood sector. Changes are proposed for their overcoming. These changes are urgent and are united in the following directions: differentiation of independent management of the woods, change in the collecting and in the distribution of the incomings of state woods, regulations of the rights of economic activities in the state forestry, extension and observing of the forestry plans, improving of the choice and assignation of wood to different companies.</p> <p>The author hopes that the setting of these problems will provoke discussion and the question for better management of the forestry will be resolved correctly.</p>

Citation	Bojinova, ?. (2000). Contamination of the soil with heavy metals, ways for protection, <i>Present Problems of the Ecology and Sustainable Development</i> , II, Sofia, 80-90. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	As a result of the economic activity of the man it is made contamination of the environment with different chemical means. The damage of the environment is in such average so that inconvertible processes occur and they are with unusually bad consequences. In the paper are specified the sources of contamination of the soil with

	heavy metals. The situation in Bulgaria is clarified. Are discussed the topics for the estimation and management of the risk. In conclusion, it is said that the problems, occurred as a result of the technogenetic contamination are exclusively serious and cannot be solved in short-time terms. For the successful resolutions are necessary not only the efforts of all the countries, governments, but also the efforts of a lot of specialists – physicians, chemists, biologists, engineers, etc.
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Citation	Bozhinova, P., and Yanakieva, I, (2005). Paths and Measures for the Improvement of the Environmental Condition of the Land Resources in Bulgaria, <i>Agricultural economics and management</i> , L, 2, 41-50. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	<p>The aim of this paper is to uncover the problems and to sketch the paths, methods and measures for improving the ecological condition of the land resources in Bulgaria. The performed enquiry shows that about 80% of the arable land in Bulgaria are exposed to erosion processes while about 30% of it are exposed to wind erosion. The genetically acid soils are spread throughout 50% of Bulgaria`s territory, the salty soils comprise 0,6% of the arable land and the contaminated lands and soils with heavy metals and metalloids amount to 43660 ha. In Bulgaria there is observed a progression of the soil degradation processes, but the tremendous decrease of the use of chemical fertilisers and preparations in agriculture are aprecondition for the production of organic produce. This is a new market niche for Bulgarian agriculture and is an opportunity for the incomes increment of the Bulgarian agricultural producers.</p> <p>The main methods for improving the quality of acid soils refer to limening, phosphating assuring filters and cleaning stations for the polluting enterprises, and the monitoring of the existing and potential polluters in the regions which refers to drainage, washing with clean water and engypsing, growing plants resistible to salt, such like sugar beet, alfalfa, pastures, and cotton. Phytotherapy through mossless perennial plants such like elons and salvia is an alternative to the existing technologies for cleaning soils from heavy metals. There is performed melioration of soils through hydrotechnical, chemical, electrical and agromeliorative methods, deep plowing combined with plastination andlimening, fertiliser introduction, etc. The restoration of the polluted by oil products land is successfully accomplished by a technology designed by the Bulgarian scientific institute of soils` research “N. Pushkarov”.</p> <p>The major undertakings concerning recultivation, new land assimilation and improving the productive qualities of land refer to: cleaning of trees, shrubs and stones, levelling up; recultivation of old river beds and gullies, irrigation channels, etc., as well as the restoration of the ecological features of land under industrial pollution. The new lands assimilation is almost not used since it is a very costly event.</p> <p>The arrangement and development of the infrastructure of agricultural territories and their maintenance refers to construction of inner roads; fountains and basins; build-ups and paths, small dam lakes with walls not higher than 10m, draining, etc. Road construction is made more difficult also because the first plans for land division require a servitude of 3m., and a 4-meter road width.</p> <p>The problems related to the improvement of the ecological condition of the land resources consist of: the reliable control over the sticking to the law and normatives; financial assets which are not sufficient; the technical condition of the greater part of the constructed anti-erosion facilities, roads, fountains and other facilities is also bad, due to lack of means for their maintenance; and an efficient solution with regard to the postconstruction control over constructed sites, that are lacking. The greater part of the agricultural land is private property and, after completion, the sites are handed in to the municipalities who have no interest, assets or people for their current maintenance.</p>

Citation	Doneva, ?. (2000). Economy and environment: integration of the politics on European level, <i>International Relations</i> , XXIX, 4, 81-100. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	The European Union uses the typical for the last years approach of the ecological policy and transforms the principles of balanced and sustainable development (with high level of defense of the environment) in aims of its politics. These principles also become a part of the Amsterdam agreement. The processes of building of economic and currency unions also face the EU with the challenges to maximize the favorable

	ecological consequences. The last mentioned should be made not only by increasing of the speed of economic growth, but also by the intensification of integration processes and structural changes, by integration of ecological problems with the associated with them economic decisions. The practical realization of these tasks erases the problems for development of relevant mechanisms and instruments in the area of the structural and general politics for development of the economic and currency union, as well as cross-sectoral measures for stimulating the process of integration of politics. This article gives detailed analysis of some of the main aspects and also proposes possible decisions based on the European experience.
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Citation	Doneva, ?. (2002). Effectiveness against contamination, <i>Bulletin Economy</i> , LVI, 5, 16-17. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	The energy branch and particularly electrical power stations, that use solid fuels and mazut are the main contaminators of the air. In this article is examined the transitory state of the contents of noxious gasses in the air, their origins, the insurance with energy resources, problems with the consumption of water. The main conclusion is that the reasons for all the problems are as follows: application of the accepted normative order, monopol in the supply of energy, overcapacity of the stations. The solution of these problems demands building of a structure that is dominated by the supply, as well as the construction of mechanism for realization of the accepted long-term objectives and increasing of the effectiveness of consumption of energy.

Citation	Hadjieva, V. (2004). Development of the Agricultural Sector in the Context of its Sustainability, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , XLIX, 6, 45-47. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	The aim of this paper is to evaluate to what extent the development of the agricultural sector for the period 1990-2002 is sustainable having in mind the trends of the Gross Product and the salaries of the employed as well as the quantitative changes in agriculture after 1990. The analysis shows that the Gross Product produced in agriculture changes at different rates, but as a whole for the period the increments are positive and in 2002 its size nears that of 1990. Similar are the changes in the salaries of the employed in this sector, but regardless of this fact that as a whole, in 2002 they still do not reach their level of 1990. The conclusion is that the qualitative and quantitative changes which occur in Bulgarian agriculture in the transition period, show that the approach to the sustainable development is difficult because of still influencing detaining factors.

Citation	Kostov, G. (2003). Sources of Funds Aiming at Protection and Reproduction of Natural Resources, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , XXXXVIII, 2, 27-29. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	The environment pollution could be associated with given process of consumption or production in which use of main production factors (capital, labour and land) can be quantitative and qualitative determined but it is difficulty real price of natural resources use to be determined. Then in the process of distribution and redistribution of incomes received the influence of natural factors used don't take into consideration. Aiming at natural resources conservation and restoration financial means have to be ensured. Consumers of natural resources and agents of their pollution are firms and society.

Citation	Mitov, ?. (2000). Standardization, monitoring and legislation in the area of the conservation of the waters, <i>Present problems of the Ecology and Sustainable Development</i> , II, Sofia, 91-104. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	In this paper is reviewed the existing system of standards for preserving, improving and

	reproduction of the environment. Also are revised the methods for the improving of the use of natural resources. It is given a detailed characteristic for the essence of "monitoring of waters", who is responsible for its realization in Bulgaria and what are the legislative bases for it (in the Bulgarian law, international documents and Directives of EU)..
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Citation	Popsavov, R. (2005). Erosion of soil in forestry: status and measures for restriction, <i>Bulletin Wood</i> , 7, 2-4. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	The natural conditions in Bulgaria are prerequisite for the development of intensive erosion of the soil. The fight with the erosion in Bulgaria starts directly after the Liberation. In this article are reviewed the stages and the measures that are taken since nowadays. Well-prepared specialists are one of the main prerequisites for the effective application of legislative decrees, organization and control of the fulfilment of all measures against the erosion. As a result of this begins building and functioning of schools, universities, and scientific groups. Such comprehensive long-term program for the struggle with erosion exists only in few countries in Europe and in the world. And yet in Bulgaria it is performed with delays during the last 10 years. That is why the author shows the regions, in which this program should be continued and the measures that are necessary.

Citation	Yanakieva, I., and Boginova, P. (2003). Erosion of Land Resources Control in Bulgaria – Main Factors of Their Ecological Condition Improvement, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , XXXXVIII, 6, 130-136. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	Main measures of restitution and improvement of production characteristics of the agricultural land, restore, maintaining and new construction of infrastructure, setting up and reconstruction of land reclamation erosion control sites etc., aiming at creation of sustainable, competitive and ecological agriculture. The greatest part of financial resources ensured by line of erosion control is used wrongly. Structural changes about mode of erosion control finance are not suitable because resources are ensured by State budget only and they are very insufficient. Erosion control resources in 1998 to 1994 – are increased 45 times but erosion control areas are decreased 13 times. The projecting and construction of sites for erosion control until 1989 are executed by catchments areas, including the territories of several settlements. After the land reform start the ownership is not clear out now problems are that dominant part of agricultural land is private. Therefore, ensure of big and consolidated areas is so difficult.

Axis 3: Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification

Citation	Aleksiev, ?. (2004). Rival opportunities for the Bulgarian agriculture, Bulgarian enterprises: challenges coming with the accession to the EU, <i>Science conference UNWE - Sofia</i> , 63-68. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	The aim of this research is to be valued the opportunities and to be based institutional models for increasing the rival opportunities of the agricultural export. The research is based on the comparatively priorities of our country in the international trade with agricultural goods. The study includes assessment of the rival capacity of the agricultural export of the country, analysis of the influence of the main natural, economic and social factors over the level of the above mentioned rival capacity.

Citation	Alexieva, Y. and Stamov, S. (2002), Alternative Types of Tourism and Rural Regions Development, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , XXXVII, 4, 49-53. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	<p>Some alternative types of tourism – rural, hunting and religious – are discussed. Their opportunities for positive influence on rural regions are indicated.</p> <p>As a part of rural tourism so-called agritourism is underlined.</p> <p>Prerequisites and stimuli for its arise and development its profit for rural tourism are indicated: near free nich for rural tourism and opportunities for its fill up, using the European experience, interesting and beautiful natural facts in many rural regions, with traditions, particular folk-lore, way of living, habits; establishment and development of rural regions will give livelihood of many initiative persons in the rural regions and particularly in these, non-suitable for agricultural activities but having beautiful natural resources, interesting and original culture.</p> <p>So-called “hunting tourism” is defined as “a type of specialized tourism” having as main tourism service setting up of conditions of hunting. This is perspective profitable activity under foreign tourist attraction. It is indicated that many of hunting areas are including rural regions. Development of international hunting tourism would results in establishment or enlargement of service activities (hunting houses having suitable material base, small family hotels, restaurants, amusement activities etc.), i. e. new places of work and supplementary incomes.</p> <p>The regions tourism is defined as “a type of alternative tourism, which can: a) have pure religious incentive – holy sites visit, religious pilgrimages or participation in determined religious holidays, religious need satisfaction; b) refer to cultural tourism when cultural and cognitive effect is added...”</p> <p>The religious tourism could positively influence on rural regions development, regarding monasteries, churches, cult cities.</p> <p>In Bulgaria there are conditions and needs of alternative types of tourism development. They can influence on social and economic development in many rural regions in Bulgaria creating supplementary activities and added incomes of the local population; renovating villages and their communication infrastructure; preventing migration from the villages, their population decrease, keeping their identity.</p>

Citation	Danchev, A. (2004). Land Use Options – Agro-Industrial Alternative Versus Biodiversity, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , XLIX, 6, 57-61. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	<p>This paper is practically oriented and discusses some of the problems connected with the application of cost-benefit analysis, for assessment of the basic land use options of the Bulgarian Danube islands. The author analyses the basic aspects of costs and benefits assessment of two basic options, which at present prevail driving the future development of the region. They are the further extension of the poplar forests at the Bulgarian Danube islands at the expense of the natural forests and the restoration of the natural floodplain forests with further biodiversity conservation and simulating economic activity in the region connected with the growth of tourism and recreation.</p> <p>The assessments of benefits of both alternatives are outlined as a rather serious problem. Attention is drawn to the assessment of indirect benefits and so called “non-use values”, which are substantial as an option of restoration of biodiversity and thus making this option as a condition sine qua non for their successful accomplishment. In general, based on scrutinized study carried out in cooperation with the non-government organization “Green Balkans”, the author comes to the conclusion that the restoration of the natural forests, biodiversity conservation and its wise and sustainable use may be a source of considerably higher benefits for the region, in comparison with the poplar plantations extension in the islands. The realization of this option however requires serious structural changes and investments.</p>

Citation	Djubarova, J. (2004). Conditions for the Development of Biological Agriculture in Bulgaria, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , XLIX, 4, 48-52. (Source: Bulgaria)
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Annotation	<p>The present paper studies and analyses the conditions for the development of biological agriculture in Bulgaria. There is collected data referring to: the Legal basis, certification and controlling institutions. The role of the State and of Non-government organizations is shown. There are described some of the producers` problems.</p> <p>The study shows that in Bulgaria there are favourable conditions for the development of Biological agriculture but at this stage there are needed greater efforts on the part of the State and of Non-government organizations for the dissemination of the production rules and the criteria for grading the biological products.</p>
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Citation	<p>Hadjieva, V, (2005), Regional Problems in Agricultural Development, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i>, L, 1, 53-56. (Source: Bulgaria)</p>
Annotation	<p>Having in mind that in the regional economic structures agriculture`s importance cannot be neglected and that agriculture will get a more important place in development, in this article we aim to enquire into its condition and problems throughout the six Planning regions in Bulgaria.</p> <p>The analysis shows that agricultural land is most rationally used in the Central-Southern region and worst used in the North Western-Planning region. The capital efficiency and labour productivity in agriculture are highest in the North Western and South-Western Planning regions since there, the energy consumption per unit of produce is lowest. These relations show the decapitalisation o f agriculture, which is durable in these two regions together with the decrement of the agricultural employees. In order to decrease the differences in the degree of agricultural development between the Planning regions, it is necessary that agriculture be modernised more intensely through active regional programs in North Bulgaria. Thus it could be attained a more equitable distribution of the fixed finds and more rational use of land resources.</p>

Citation	<p>Hagieva, V. (2002). Criteria for Sustainable Agricultural Development, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i>, XXXXVII, 4, 11-16. (Source: Bulgaria)</p>
Annotation	<p>The concept of the sustainable agriculture was expressed as a dominance of advanced development and quality over quantity changes are associated with capital decrease and aggravate of environment quality. Different aspects of the sustainable agriculture were generalized in a larger definition: according this definition it is economically efficient, ecologically compatible and social connected. Therefore, a system of indices of assessment and analysis of sustainable agricultural development is proposed. A system having structure of parameters, their relationships by means of aggregated subsystem is given. Therefore, poly aspects assessment of the agricultural sector development and its sustainability will be possible.</p>

Citation	<p>Madjarova, Sv., (2002), The Development of the Rural Areas – Defined Purpose of the State Policy, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i>, XXXXVII, 4, 54-57. (Source: Bulgaria)</p>
Annotation	<p>In the purposed paper is mentioned, that for the first time the question for helping and stimulating the development of the rural areas is defined as a purpose of the state policy. On the basis of the main moments and purposes underlined in the plan, and due to the well-made social and economic characterization and analyses of the present status of the rural areas, we reply to the question – what was changed in favour of the rural areas after accepting the National plan for development of the agriculture and starting of the SAPARD programme?</p>

Citation	<p>Malamova, N. (2002), Incomes and Sustainable Development of Rural Households of Some Bulgarian Municipalities, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i>, XXXXVII, 5, 54-62. (Source: Bulgaria)</p>
Annotation	<p>The analysis was completed by FAO methods of diagnostics of farm systems (FAO, 1999). Information of survey on 45 households of several municipalities was analysed. The method of standard interview was used (in May, 2001). The following conclusions</p>

	<p>are drawn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main characteristics of incomes of households surveyed as a factor of their survival and sustainable development were discovered. - In all municipalities surveyed, largest was relative part of rural household having incomes (in 2000) menacing their survival (Sandanski – 80%, Lukovit – 50%, Svoge – 29%, Yambol – 50%, Yablanica – 100%) - The incomes unagricultural ones don't resolve survival problems, even in some of municipalities (Sandanski, Yambol) they are lower, for equivalent employees, than agricultural ones. - The least is a part of rural households having intentions to make little improvement in their agricultural production – Yambol 0%, Yablanica 0%, Svoge (in a view to great unemployment) about 10%, Sandansky 10%, Lukovit 17%, based only on agricultural incomes and about the same value in a view of level of total net annual income an equivalent employees. <p>The main obstacles of sustainable agricultural households development concerning municipalities surveyed were shown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very little number of the households surveyed of municipalities Yablanica and Yambol give not opportunities for issues in this direction. <p>About other rural communities, factors, delaying agricultural farm development are particular for each of them, i. e. level of employment of households members (Svoge), structure of employment, i. e. lack of employment integrated with agriculture and supplementing in employment (Sandansky, Yambol). The investigation discovers particular situation for Lukovit municipality, connected with labour input in the field of agriculture. In Lukovit, in contrast to most rural regions, the serious is the problem of lack of labour for agricultural land tillage.</p> <p>The priority directions for rural households sustainable development improvements determined as following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Lukovit municipality – increase of size of position of rural households on credit market; - For Svoge municipality – increase of size of rural households members; - For municipality of Sandansky – improvement of rural households employment structure; - The municipalities of Svoge and Sandansky have different demographic characteristics and infrastructure, i. e. they have different opportunities in the field of education and health services trade, rural tourism and agricultural output, products processing. These particularities are limited opportunities for development of occupation alternative of agriculture in Svoge. Sandansky has potential for little family business development of occupation alternative of agriculture in Svoge. Sandansky has potential for little family business development, including rural tourism. - The structure of municipality areas (the forestry areas are over 60% of two municipalities territories), of agricultural land (pastures are over 60% of agricultural areas in both municipalities) and of arable lands (meadows are accounted for over 50% of arable land in both municipalities) are showing opportunities for animal husbandry development (goat and sheep breedings), including ecological stick breeding in both municipalities.
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Citation	Mitova, D. (2003a). Appearance, Development and Perspectives of Organic Farming, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , XXXVIII, 5, 49-54. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	<p>The concept of organic farming is clarified on the basis of international forums' definitions. Organic farming is perceived as an element of the system of sustainable agriculture and as a viable alternative of traditional approaches in agriculture.</p> <p>The appearance of organic farming in Europe is reviewed as well as status and development of organic farming world-wide and in Bulgaria.</p> <p>Based on the data of an inquiry conducted from a science team (IAE-Sofia) in year 2002 with 67 agricultural Bulgarian farms, the author analyzed the willingness of Bulgarian agricultural producers to deal with organic farming, as well as the attitude of consumers to organic products. It is paid attention on the government and social support for organic farmer world wide and in Bulgaria; on the perspectives for</p>

	development of organic farming in nearest decades. The role of SAPARD and of foundation "Bioselena" for foundation and further development of organic farming in Bulgaria is emphasized.
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Citation	Mitova, D. (2003b). Organic Farming as a Tool of Sustainable Development of Agriculture, <i>Sofia - Problems of Agribusiness in Bulgaria during the Pre-Accession Period</i> , 154-162. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	The report examines problems of organic agriculture. General conception of organic agriculture, development of the government support at European level in the last decades and characteristics of ecological, economic and social aspects of organic farming as an element and a tool for sustainable rural and agricultural development are reviewed. Examination of the relationship between organic farming as an element and a tool for sustainable rural and natural resources management, food safety and security and rural development is made, as well as a review of organic agriculture in Bulgaria and measures for its promoting.

Citation	Mitova, D. (2005). Good Agricultural Practices as an Element of Sustainable Agriculture, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , L, 1, 40-45. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	The concept of good agricultural practices is clarified on the basis of international forums`definitions. It is reviewed the basic principles, indicators and practices in this concept, as well as good agricultural practices for selected agricultural components. Broadly defined, GAP applies available knowledge to addressing environmental, economic and social sustainability for on-farm production and post-production processes resulting in safe and healthy food and non-food agricultural products. Many farmers in developed and developing countries already apply GAP through sustainable agricultural methods such as integrated pest management, integrated nutrient management and conservation agriculture. The food chain approach to food safety and quality implies that GAP should be extended along the food chain to put greater emphasis on primary production practices. GAP represents a multitude of approaches and applications, addressing a range of minimum obligations, that have to be followed by agricultural producers, what will guarantee a sufficient level of preserving of natural resources from pollution and demolition; will sustain the soil productivity, the flora and the fauna and will contribute for decreasing of global warming. Good agricultural practices are perceived as an element of the system of sustainable agriculture. It is reviewed the rules for GAP in Bulgaria.

Citation	Stankov, V. and Stankova-Daneva, G. (2002), Rural Tourism Motivation, <i>Agricultural Economics and Management</i> , XXXXVII, 6, 51-57. (Source: Bulgaria)
Annotation	Some problems must be solved: - Who is needed of rural tourist product - What kind of structure of the tourist product could be proposed by the village - What kind of advertisement should be developed as a connection between the product and its consumers. A study on needs of the consumer has two stages: - Elaboration of a concept (hypothesis) of potential tourist needs in the rural regions who is "a urban type of man" - Transformation of the hypothesis concerned in a research instrument aiming at empiric studies. There are some reasons and needs of so-called urban man or "homo urbanis" or "homo faber" which would to go to rural regions: - Needs of run away from urban techno-sphere and include in the natural environment - The modern flat in the cities is moving away the man from the nature and he is looking for a change

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The modern man under media environment or the rural man is needed of "fruth" escaping from artificial media and virtual environment- Needs of humanism, human association- Needs of knowledge concerning the world.
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3. Current availability of statistical data

Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms	Geographical area: level of disaggregation	Available since	Latest available period	Source
GDP/capita (EU-25 = 100) 29**	GDP/capita (abs. value) – (1000) leva 4109* 4398 * 4885*	National		2002 2003 2004	* Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg ** COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Annex to the: Proposal for a Council Decision on Community strategic guidelines for Rural Development
Rate of unemployment (% active population) 13.7 12.0	Unemployment (abs. number) – (1000) 449.1 399.8	National		2003 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
Rate of female unemployment 13.2 11.5	Female unemployment (abs. value) – (1000) 203.0 178.2	National		2003 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
Rate of young people (<25 y.o.) unemployment 28.2 25.8	Young people unemployment (abs. value) – (1000) 86.4 79.2	National		2003 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
% of GVA in primary sector 11.4 10.7	GVA in primary sector (abs. value) – Mln leva. 3450 3526	National		2003 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg own calculations
% employment in primary sector 26.53 25.9	Employment in primary sector (abs. number) 840 007 838 328	National		2003 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
Importance of young people (5-14) % 9.9	= 772 586	National		2003	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg own calculations
Importance of middle people (15-54 + 54-64) % 68.73	= 5 361 782	National		2003	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg own calculations
Importance of age people (>=65) % 17.09	= 1 333 730	National		2003	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg own calculations
% employment in Secondary sector 26.1 26.6	= 829 332 861 440	National		2003 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg own calculations

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Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms	Geographical area: level of disaggregation	Available since	Latest available period	Source
% employment in Third sector 47.2 47.4	= 1 497 160 1 536 619	National		2003 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg own calculations
% of self-employed + family workers In rural areas Total	= (1000) 286.6 * 325.2**	Regional National		2003 2004	*MAF www.mzgar.government.bg **Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
% Long-term unemployment (from the total unemployment) 65.4 59.3	= (1000) 293.7 237.0	National		2003 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg own calculations
Share of population covered by LAG's	Population covered by LAG's (abs. number)				
% farmers with basic and full education attained	Farmers with basic and full education attained (abs. number)				
Labour productivity in agriculture (EU-25 = 100) - total and by sector. Total – GDP in PPS 33.0** 31.8** 31.0**	Labour productivity in agriculture (abs. value) - total and by sector. =GVA/number of employees in the sector 4637 4277 4366	National		2002 2003 2004	* Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg own calculations **Eurostat www.epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int own calculations
% farmers < 35 years (1000) 33.71	= (1000) 156.8	National		2003	MAF www.mzgar.government.bg
% farmers >= 55 years / >= 65 (1000) 270.17	= (1000) 454.8	National		2003	Eurostat Eurostat www.epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int
GFCF in agriculture / UAA (€/ha)	GFCF in agriculture (abs. value) n. a.				
Share of GVA in food industry Value added 15.3 17	Gross Value Added in food industry (abs. value)	National		2002 2003	Eurostat www.epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int
GVA /employee in food industry	Gross Value Added in food industry n. a.				
GFCF in food industry / UAA (€/ha)	GFCF in food industry (abs. value) n. a.				
% farms < 1 ESU	number of farms < 1 ESU n. a.				

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Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms	Geographical area: level of disaggregation	Available since	Latest available period	Source
Farm size (ha) average and distribution Average – 44 ha* < 5 ha** 5 -< 20 ha** 20 -< 50 ha** >= 50 ha**	= (1000) 644.31 13.7 2.45 5.1	National		2003	Agrireport` 2004 MAF www.mzgar.government.bg **Eurostat www.epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int
Farm size (ESU) and distribution	= n. a.				
Number of farms	= 665 548	National		2003	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
Utilized agricultural area (ha)	= ha 29 044 796	National		2003	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
Agricultural Work Unit Total farm labour force (1000 AWU)	= 791.56	National		2003	Eurostat www.epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int
GFCF in forestry / area of forest available for wood supply (€/ha)	GFCF in forestry (abs. value) n. a.				
GVA /employee in forestry	Gross Value Added in forestry n. a.				
Employment in forestry sector	= n. a.				
area of forest available for wood supply (FAWS)	= n. a.				
ownership (% area of FAWS under private ownership)	= n. a.				
average size of holding (of total forest area) by type of ownership (ha)	= n. a.				
% UAA under Natura 2000	Agriculture areas under Natura 2000 (abs. value) n. a.				
% forest area under Natura 2000	Forestry areas under Natura 2000 (abs. number) n. a.				
Trends of index of population of farmland birds	=				
% UAA of High Nature Value Farmland areas	High Nature Value farmland areas (abs. number) n. a.				
% UAA of extensive agriculture	area of extensive agriculture (abs. number) n. a.				

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Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms	Geographical area: level of disaggregation	Available since	Latest available period	Source
% UAA with low grazing LU/ha	area of extensive livestock (abs. number) n. a.				
% area LFA (mountainous)	= n. a.				
% area LFA (non mountainous)	= n. a.				
% area Natura 2000	= ha 4 048 956, 642	National		2004	Detailed list of potential Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria www.natura2000bg.org own calculations
gross nutrient balance: surplus of nitrogen in kg/ha	= n. a.				
% UAA designated as nitrate vulnerable zone	= n. a.				
% irrigated area. 2.42	= ha 701 487	National		2003	Agrireport` 2004 MAF www.mzgar.government.bg
annual trends in the concentrations of nitrate in surface water	= n. a.				
annual trends in the concentrations of nitrate in ground water Region of Danube Region of Black See - Shabla Kawarna Region of Eastaegean See – Straldja Region of Westaegean See	= 4 times above the average 12.5 times above the average 10.5 times above the average 17 times above the average 4 times above the average	Regional		2002	Executive Environmental Agency http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/ncesd/bul/about.html
concentrations of pesticides in ground and surface waters ground water Region of Danube Region of Black See Region of Eastaegean See Region of Westaegean See	= Under the threshold of the uncovering	Regionaal		2002	Executive Environmental Agency http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/ncesd/bul/about.html
% UAA devoted to energy and biomass crops	UAA devoted to energy and biomass crops (abs. number) n. a.				
share of agriculture in total production of renewable energy	total production of renewable energy by agriculture (abs. number) n. a.				
share of agriculture in GHG emissions 7.3 6.6	emissions of GHG by agriculture (abs. number) 4640 4579	National		2002 2003	Executive Environmental Agency http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/ncesd/bul/about.html

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Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms	Geographical area: level of disaggregation	Available since	Latest available period	Source
Soil : areas at risk of soil erosion (in risk level) 65 % of the total areas of Bulgaria	= 72 151.2	National		2004	Executive Environmental Agency http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/ncsd/bul/about.html
% UAA under organic farming	UAA under organic farming (abs. number) 175 ha			2000	Ministry of agriculture
Protective forests – soil, water and other	= n. a.				
Land use (% land cover agriculture / forestry / nature) (51,7; 31,5; 11,1;)	=	National		2004	COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Annex to the: Proposal for a Council Decision on Community strategic guidelines for Rural Development
% holders with other gainful activity	holders with other gainful activity (abs. value) n. a.				
% employment in non-agricultural sector	Employment in non-agricultural sector 2 359 886 2 428 693	National		2003 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
Number of micro enterprises / 1000 hab	Number of micro enterprises (abs. value) n. a.				
% GVA in non-agricultural sector 88.6	GVA in non-agricultural sector			2003	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
Number of beds (in hotels, camping, etc) / km² 1.29 1.43	Number of beds (in hotels, camping, etc) (1000) 143.6 158.9	National		2002 2003	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg own calculations
% of households having access to internet at home 9.6	households having access to internet at home (abs. value)	National		III. 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
DSL and cable modem coverage	DSL and cable modem coverage n. a.				
Share of GVA in services 58.75	GVA in services (abs. value) mln. l.w. 17757	National		2003	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
Net migration rate -4.58 migrant(s)/1,000 population	=	National		2003	www.bartleby.com The World Factbook. 2003.

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Measurement in relative terms	Measurement in absolute terms	Geographical area: level of disaggregation	Available since	Latest available period	Source
% of active population of adults participating in life long training 1.4 1.3	active population of adults participating in life long training (abs. number) 66 451 62 163			2003 2004	Eurostat www.epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int own caculations
% persons with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment (25_64)	persons (25_64) with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment – (1000) 2599.2 2627.2	National		2003 2004	Statistical Yearbook, 2004, NSI www.nsi.bg
% females with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment (25_64)	females (25_64) with (Medium + High) educationnal attainment n. a.				
% area in rural areas 81.4	90 371 km ²	National		2003	MAF www.mzgar.government.bg
% population in rural areas 43.6	3 612 974	National		2003	MAF www.mzgar.government.bg
density population in rural areas	40 / m ²	National		2003	MAF www.mzgar.government.bg
% GVA in rural areas	n. a.				
% employment in rural areas % unemployment	22	National		2003	MAF www.mzgar.government.bg

