

INASO-PASEGES

Questions for the Policy Workshop discussion in May 17th 2018, at European Parliament.

Question A

How did the co-operative organizations welcome this new way of energy utilization of agricultural pruning and plantation removal?

Answers

The implementation of this innovative as well as environmentally-friendly practice of agricultural pruning management was very well received by the Agricultural Cooperatives that participated in this project for its prospects, though with some speculation as to its implementation.

What sparked the most interest was the prospect of developing such technical know-how that will allow the exploitation of agricultural waste, in an energy-efficient way since, so far, agricultural waste has been either burnt or integrated..

Question B

After the completion of the demo actions, in the context of project implementation, what is the view that has been formed? What measures do they think need to be taken to make such an initiative sustainable?

Demonstration actions took place in different regions in Greece showed that an alternative management of agricultural pruning and plantation removal, is feasible. However, the question is, is it sustainable, too?

The answer to such a speculation would have to be appropriate agriculturally oriented measures.

Such measures should be the:

Legislative framework that bans the burning of waste.

Investment measures, giving priority to professional farmers.

Consultation, in order to incorporate all actions of agricultural pruning management in the new CAP as multiple compliance or environmental measures.

Fuel subsidies for the collection of pruning.

Financial tools and subsidized contracts.

Any reservations voiced, concerning the prospects of this initiative can be mitigated and the time is now ripe for investments. The Agricultural Cooperatives and their members are the ones, if not the only ones, who can make such an initiative sustainable.