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**FINANCIAL RESILIENCE OF SMALL LIVESTOCK FARMING
IN REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS
OF SOUTHEASTERN ALBANIA**

Summary

Background. The aim of the research was to determine the impact of institutional mechanisms of financial support and organizational models on the resilience and long-term financial efficiency of small-scale livestock farming. The research methodology was based on a comparative analysis of statistical data on the dynamics of procurement prices for milk and meat at the farm-gate level, the size and direction of subsidies, as well as institutional mechanisms of livestock production support.

Results and conclusions. As a result, it was established that procurement prices for milk in France increased from EUR 1.20 to EUR 1.28 per liter, in Greece – from EUR 1.10 to EUR 1.18 per liter, and in Spain – from EUR 1.05 to EUR 1.12 per liter, while meat prices in Bulgaria increased from EUR 4.80 to EUR 5.80 per kilogram, in Greece – from EUR 5.50 to EUR 6.30 per kilogram, and in France – from EUR 6.00 to EUR 6.80 per kilogram. An analysis of subsidies showed that in Albania their level reached EUR 500÷700 per farm yearly and had a compensatory effect, in Bulgaria – EUR 1,200-1,500, resulting in a cost reduction, in Greece – EUR 2,000÷2,500, with orientation towards modernization, in France – EUR 3,500 ÷ 4,000, with a focus on organic production, in Spain – EUR 2,800 ÷ 3,200, with a risk insurance function. It was found that a comprehensive support that takes into consideration market conditions increased income stability of small producers, whereas the integration of animal farming with agritourism and ecological practices ensured the diversification of income sources, strengthened social cohesion and created conditions for sustainable development of rural areas. The results obtained may be used by state authorities, research institutions and local communities in developing programs of financial support and improving the efficiency of small-scale livestock farming.

Keywords: subsidies, institutional mechanisms, profitability, productivity, agricultural markets, diversification of incomes

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Introduction

Small-scale livestock farming is a component in the structure of rural households in Europe, performing the functions of food provision, support of social employment and preservation of traditional forms of farming; it also represents a primary link in the food supply chain, ensuring the production of raw materials for the dairy and meat processing industries. However, it remains vulnerable due to its dependence on market fluctuations, limited access to financial resources and weak integration into institutional and infrastructural mechanisms. The insufficient integration of small livestock farms into formal food processing and distribution systems limits their ability to capture added value and weakens their position within the broadly defined food industry. Additional risks were formed by global challenges, in particular climate change, migration processes and the transformation of agricultural markets, which strengthened the need for new models of diversification, among which one direction was integration with agritourism and ecological practices. Such diversification increasingly involves on-farm processing, direct marketing of animal products and participation in short food supply chains, which strengthens the role of small farms in local food systems. A comprehensive approach to the development of small-scale livestock farming makes it possible to form alternative sources of income, increase the competitiveness of farms, strengthen social cohesion and turn it into a factor of economic stability and sustainable development of rural areas.

The analysis of scientific research showed that the financial resilience and adaptive potential of small-scale livestock farming had been studied in various regional and conceptual dimensions. Bowen and Chudleigh [8] studied the experience of northern Australia, where the return to small ruminant farming contributed to an increase in farmers' profitability. The authors also established that the restoration of traditional practices reduced the vulnerability of farms to climate risks and created conditions for the long-term stability of production. Wolf and Karszes [49] showed that liquidity ratios and threshold values of costs determined the ability of farmers to withstand market fluctuations. The authors proved that control of these indicators made it possible to minimize the risk of bankruptcy and ensured stability even under conditions of unstable demand.

In the Albanian context, Marku [27] emphasized the role of targeted financial support, which ensured the maintenance of livestock in the conditions of instability. The author stressed that subsidies made it possible to avoid a sharp reduction in production; however, the scale was insufficient for the intensive development of the sector. Topalli et al. [47] focused on the need to adapt credit programs to climate challenges. The researchers established those financial products taking into account climate change risks, stimulated investment in production infrastructure and contributed to farm renewal. The structural problems of the Albanian dairy sector were highlighted by

Biçoku [6], pointing to low productivity and high price instability. The research emphasized that these factors significantly reduced the competitiveness of producers and undermined the efficiency of the dairy processing industry due to irregular supply and quality inconsistencies. Kapari et al. [19] showed that the effectiveness of small farmers directly depended on access to knowledge, technologies and infrastructure. The authors noted that the lack of such resources led to uneven development, while their availability ensured the integration of farms into wider market and social systems.

The conceptual rethinking of approaches to the adaptation of the agricultural sector was proposed by Azadi et al. [3]. The researchers advocated a transition from the model of climate-smart agriculture to vulnerable-smart agriculture, which made it possible to take more accurately into account the vulnerabilities of farming households. The authors proved that such an approach made support policies more targeted and effective. Silpa et al. [43] revealed the possibilities of genomic technologies in dairy cattle farming. The results showed that the application of modern biotechnologies increased the resilience of animals to climate stresses and ensured production stability under conditions of rising average annual temperatures. In the arid regions of Iran, Nasrnia and Ashktorab [36] found that households strengthened their resilience through income diversification. This was also facilitated by the development of social capital and the rational use of natural resources, which created a basis for survival under adverse climate conditions. The development of small-scale processing and value-added animal products further enhanced households' integration into local food systems.

The study of Lu et al. [25] demonstrated a relationship between non-financial factors and the economic resilience of agricultural structures. The authors proved that enterprises with high indicators of sustainability performance had a better ability to resist crises, which emphasized the significance of ecological and social aspects in ensuring long-term viability. Biçoku and Zeqiri [5] analyzed the meat sector of Albania and recorded an increased dependence on imports, as well as an imbalance between production and consumption. This, in their opinion, reduced the financial stability of local producers and increased the dependence on external markets. In the work of Xhoxhi and Szücs [52], attention was focused on the functioning of value chains of small ruminants in the Western Balkans. The researchers concluded that the high fragmentation of these chains limited the opportunities of producers to obtain a fair share of market rent and became a factor reducing competitiveness.

The analysis of the literature revealed a number of gaps in the available research. Firstly, the quantitative assessment of the impact of institutional support mechanisms on the financial results of small livestock farms, in particular the indicators gross margin (GM), net farm income (NFI) and return on assets (ROA), remained limited. The seasonality of fluctuations in product prices and feed costs was insufficiently taken into

account, which complicated the interpretation of short-term financial risks. Separately, the issue of integrating agritourism and ecological practices into the models of small-scale livestock farming development required deeper analysis, as this direction remained little studied in quantitative aspects. There was also a lack of the localization of technological innovations, in particular genetic and digital solutions, for the conditions of small farms in the Balkan region, which limited the possibility of the practical application.

The aim of the research was to assess the impact of organizational and financial mechanisms on the resilience and financial efficiency of small-scale livestock farming. To achieve this aim, the research carried out an analysis of economic, social and ecological factors that determined the development of small-scale livestock farming in France, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria and Albania; studied the institutional mechanisms of the state, regional and cooperative support and the impact on the financial resilience of small farms; and examined the role of small livestock farms within food value chains, including their interaction with processing industries and markets, conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of instruments for the diversification of farming activities and defined the role in increasing the competitiveness of small producers under market fluctuations and global challenges.

Materials and methods

The research constitutes an applied interdisciplinary study in which economic, sociological and ecological analyses were combined. The time frame covers the period from 2020 to 2024, which made it possible to trace the dynamics of the development of small-scale livestock farming in the context of changes in agricultural markets, climate challenges and institutional transformations. The selected period (2020 ÷ 2024) captures post-pandemic market restructuring, climate-related shocks and institutional adjustments within EU and Balkan agricultural policies that significantly influenced the financial stability of small-scale livestock farms. For comparative analysis, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, France and Spain were chosen, as these states represented different models of organization and institutional support of small-scale livestock farming within Europe. Albania was an example of a country with a high dependence of small farms on state support and international programs; Bulgaria demonstrated the development of cooperative structures; Greece combined traditional livestock farming with agritourism; France and Spain had a multi-level support system within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EU, which created the basis for the integration of economic and social functions of small farms. The choice of these countries was determined by the need to take into account different institutional approaches and economic conditions in order to form a comprehensive vision of the financial resilience of small-scale livestock farming.

Data collection was carried out on the basis of official statistical sources such as Eurostat [11], Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) [14], as well as materials of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) [39]. Statistical data of the Ministry of Agriculture of Albania [30] were studied, which made it possible to detail national trends in the development of livestock farming. Additionally, data from the Ministries of Agriculture of Bulgaria [31], Greece [33], France [29] and Spain [32] were used. Special attention was paid to the documents of the European Commission on Rural Development [10], in which the strategic directions of support for small farms and the mechanisms of the integration into the European agricultural policy were defined. The combination of these sources ensured the comprehensiveness of information collection, as the sources reflected both macro-economic trends and international indicators, as well as national peculiarities of the functioning of small-scale livestock farming.

The methodological basis of the research was a comparative analysis, which was applied for the comparison of the organizational and financial models of small-scale livestock farming in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, France and Spain. The use of this method was determined by the need to identify both common trends and differences in the level of the integration of small farms into market and institutional infrastructure. The comparison made it possible to determine which institutional instruments (subsidies, credit programs, cooperative mechanisms) most influenced the financial resilience and competitiveness of farms under different socio-economic conditions.

For the quantitative assessment of the economic efficiency of small-scale livestock farming, the methods of financial analysis were applied, in particular the GM, NFI and ROA indicators. The justification for the choice of these indicators was the ability to comprehensively characterize the profitability, liquidity and profitability of farms. With the help, the calculation of the impact of different forms of institutional support on financial results was carried out, as well as the degree of the dependence of farms on market fluctuations and seasonality of production was determined. This approach made it possible to provide the quantitative confirmation of the economic resilience of small farms and to assess the effectiveness of support policies in the selected countries.

Within the socio-economic direction of the research, the methods of qualitative analysis were used, which included the systematization of the practices of farm activities' diversification. The integration of small-scale livestock farming with agritourism and the introduction of ecologically oriented technologies were considered as a separate direction of analysis. The use of this method was determined by the need to identify social factors of resilience, in particular the role of cooperation, mutual support and the level of the cohesion of rural communities. This made it possible not only to de-

scribe economic effects, but also to outline the significance of social capital as a factor of the long-term stability of small-scale livestock farming.

The interpretation of results was carried out through the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis, which ensured a multidimensional vision of the studied phenomenon. This approach made it possible to integrate economic calculations with socio-economic and ecological aspects of the functioning of small-scale livestock farming. It ensured the comprehensiveness of the assessment, which allowed to form generalized conclusions about the effectiveness of existing institutional and organizational models of its development in the analyzed countries. On the basis of the research conducted, practical recommendations for financial activity in livestock farming in Albania were developed on the basis of comparison with the experience of other countries, which made it possible to integrate international practices into the context of national conditions.

Results

Theoretical foundations of forming financial resilience of livestock farming in Albania

The assessment of the financial resilience of livestock farms was based on the use of the indicators that comprehensively characterized the profitability and financial efficiency of functioning. For small farms, particularly in the sphere of sheep and goat farming, the most representative ones were considered to be the GM, NFI and ROA indicators. These indicators reflected the key aspects of financial activity: from the short-term profitability of individual production processes to the long-term ability to ensure economic viability and efficiency of asset use in agricultural production.

For summarizing the basic parameters of financial resilience in livestock farming, it was appropriate to present the parameters in a structured form. The systematization of indicators made it possible to form a unified conceptual framework and created the basis for further analysis of financial results in small-scale livestock farming. In such a form, these indicators could be used not only for theoretical modelling, but also for applied analysis of the efficiency of small farms under conditions of limited access to resources and a high level of market risks. The generalization of the economic content and functional significance of these indicators in Table 1 provided the basis for a comprehensive assessment of the resilience of production systems in livestock farming.

The three key indicators of financial resilience of livestock farms reflected different time horizons and aspects of functioning efficiency. GM characterized short-term profitability and served as a guideline for assessing the viability of production at the current stage. NFI integrated the full spectrum of costs and demonstrated the ability of the farm to maintain economic self-sufficiency in a medium- and long-term perspective. ROA reflected the efficiency of resource use and was informative for the small farms that were

limited in access to credit and investment instruments. The combined application of these indicators made it possible to comprehensively assess the financial state of farms, identify structural constraints and determine directions for strengthening their resilience, which constituted the basis for making substantiated management decisions.

Table 1. Key indicators of financial resilience in livestock farming

Indicator	Economic content	Significance for small-scale livestock farming
GM	The difference between gross income and variable costs. Reflected the short-term profitability of a specific type of activity.	Made it possible to determine whether production covered basic costs (feed, veterinary services, energy), especially under conditions of limited production scale.
NFI	Net income of the farm after deduction of all expenses, including depreciation and taxes. Characterized overall economic viability.	Served as an integral indicator of the long-term resilience of the farm and the ability to maintain herd reproduction.
ROA	The ratio of net profit to the total value of assets (land, buildings, livestock, equipment). Reflected the efficiency of resource use.	Made it possible to assess how rationally available assets were used under conditions of limited access to credits and investments.

Explanatory notes: compiled by the authors based on [23, 26]

The practical significance of these indicators was manifested in correlating the indicators with production results that determined the scale and stability of the sector's functioning. In Albania, the volumes of meat and milk production were the most indicative indicators, as they reflect trends in the development of small-scale livestock farming and form the basis of its financial resilience. The analysis of statistics for 2020 ÷ 2024 demonstrated a gradual decline of these indicators, which indicated increasing risks for the economic viability of small farms and underlined the need to strengthen targeted support mechanisms. The summarized results were presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Production of livestock products in Albania in 2020 ÷ 2024 (thousand t/thousand l)

Indicator	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Meat in live weight (total)	52	50	48	45	44
Including: mutton	33	34	33	30	29
Including: goat meat	18	16	15	15	14
Fur	3	3	2	2	2
Milk, total (thousand l)	155	154	145	135	130
Including: sheep	75	73	69	64	62
Including: goats	80	80	76	71	68

Explanatory notes: indicators were presented in thousand tons (meat) and thousand liters (milk); source: developed by the authors based on [30]

The data of Table 2 showed that in 2020 ÷ 2024 Albania demonstrated a steady decline in livestock production. The total volume of meat decreased from 52,000 t in 2020 to 44,000 t in 2024, i.e. by 15 %. The most pronounced fall was characteristic of mutton, the volume of which decreased from 33,000 to 29,000 t (-12 %), while goat meat decreased from 18,000 to 14,000 t (-22 %). A similar trend was observed in milk production: the indicator decreased from 155,000 l in 2020 to 130,000 l in 2024, which was almost 16 %. The largest losses were recorded in sheep farming, where milk yields decreased by over 17 %, while in goat farming the decline amounted to about 15 %. Such a reduction in productivity indicated the gradual narrowing of the resource base of small farms and created risks for maintaining economic viability.

The trends revealed directly affected financial indicators. Declining production reduced GM, constrained NFI and lowered ROA, highlighting the growing financial vulnerability of small-scale livestock farms. As a result, Albanian farms became more dependent on external support mechanisms, particularly state subsidies and international programs. The financial resilience of small-scale livestock farming was formed by a combination of internal production-economic factors and external institutional conditions. The application of an integrated assessment system that combined GM, NFI and ROA with the characterization of state and supranational support made it possible to comprehensively determine the ability of farms to adapt to market and climate challenges and ensure the preconditions of sustainable development.

Economic and institutional conditions of ensuring financial resilience of small-scale livestock farming

Procurement prices for milk and meat of small ruminants were a determining factor of profitability of small farms in the countries of South-Eastern Europe, particularly in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, France and Spain. Price dynamics directly formed the income part of producers and determined the level of financial resilience under conditions of limited access to credit resources and high dependence on market conjuncture. A change in procurement prices even within a few per cent influenced the ability to cover key expense items, including feed, veterinary services and labor costs. In the period of 2020 ÷ 2024, a steady trend of gradual growth of average prices for milk and meat was observed, which at the same time was accompanied by a noticeable difference between countries, which continued to determine uneven profitability of farms.

For summarizing the situation and conducting cross-country comparisons, the dynamics of procurement prices in 2020 ÷ 2024 were presented in Table 3. The systematization of these indicators made it possible to distinguish the key differences between national markets and trace long-term trends that determined the profitability of sheep and goat farms. Table 3 presented conditional average values of procurement prices for milk and meat, which were based on statistical data and aggregated market estimates.

The presented material created an analytical basis for further assessment of the economic possibilities of small-scale livestock farming and determination of the influence of price factors on the producers' competitiveness in the analyzed countries.

Table 3. Dynamics of average procurement prices for milk and meat of small ruminants in the analyzed countries (2020 ÷ 2024, EUR/l; EUR/kg)

Country	Product	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Albania	Milk (EUR/l)	0.85	0.88	0.92	0.90	0.95
	Meat (EUR/kg)	4.50	4.70	5.00	5.10	5.30
Bulgaria	Milk (EUR/l)	0.90	0.93	0.98	0.97	1.00
	Meat (EUR/kg)	4.80	5.00	5.30	5.50	5.80
Greece	Milk (EUR/l)	1.10	1.12	1.15	1.14	1.18
	Meat (EUR/kg)	5.50	5.70	6.00	6.10	6.30
France	Milk (EUR/l)	1.20	1.22	1.25	1.24	1.28
	Meat (EUR/kg)	6.00	6.20	6.50	6.60	6.80
Spain	Milk (EUR/l)	1.05	1.08	1.10	1.08	1.12
	Meat (EUR/kg)	5.80	6.00	6.30	6.40	6.60

Explanatory notes: the symbols EUR/l meant euro per liter of milk, EUR/kg – euro per kilogram of meat. The values presented were conditional average estimates built on the basis of market trends; sources: developed by the authors based on [11, 14, 29-33, 39]

The analysis of Table 3 data showed that in 2020 ÷ 2024 all studied countries demonstrated a gradual increase in procurement prices both for milk and for meat of small ruminants. The lowest average values were characteristic of Albania and Bulgaria, which considerably narrowed the opportunities of farms in these countries to form high profitability and ensure a stable financial base. At the same time, in Greece, France and Spain, prices remained consistently higher, which created more favorable conditions for the sale of products with a higher margin. The price gap between France and Albania was indicative, as it reflected significant differences in the structure of national markets and competitive positions of producers. The general trend of price growth in 2020-2024 testified to increased demand for small livestock products in the countries of the European Union, but at the same time demonstrated the unevenness of economic opportunities within the region.

The structure of production costs in the small-scale livestock sector significantly influenced the financial results of farms. The largest share was made up by feed costs, the growth rates of which in the studied period exceeded the dynamics of prices for finished products, which negatively affected the GM indicator. Among the important components of costs were also veterinary services and medicines, particularly due to the prevalence of infectious diseases among livestock. An additional factor of pressure on profitability was the increase of labor costs, connected with the shortage of person-

nel in rural areas and the outflow of able-bodied population due to labor migration. Such a situation strengthened financial risks for small farms and reduced the ability to accumulate investment resources.

The formation of farmers' final incomes also largely depended on the conditions of access to markets. In Bulgaria, Greece, France and Spain, cooperative sales models were widespread, which made it possible to reduce transaction costs and obtain more favorable contracts. At the same time, in Albania, the level of cooperation remained limited, which caused the preservation of significant market dependence on intermediaries and complicated entry into premium market segments. Such an institutional environment directly influenced financial results and reduced the potential of long-term development of small-scale livestock farming.

For a more comprehensive understanding of the financial resilience of small farms, it was appropriate to take into account the institutional mechanisms that determined the level of support of the sector. Subsidies per head of livestock, preferential lending, grant programs and insurance instruments influenced the profitability of farmers in different ways, reducing the cost burden, ensuring access to capital and stimulating investments in production activities. The comparison of institutional practices in the selected countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, France and Spain) made it possible to identify advantages and limitations and assess the level of adaptability of farms to market challenges (Table 4).

The data of Table 4 confirmed significant differences in the approaches of states towards supporting small-scale livestock farming in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, France and Spain. In Albania, the program of subsidies per head of livestock had a limited compensatory effect: it partly reduced the cost burden, but did not form incentives for modernization or expansion of production. The Bulgarian system of preferential lending created opportunities for farmers' investment activity, but its effectiveness depended largely on the development of banking infrastructure in rural areas and the level of financial literacy. In Greece, grant programs, financed through the EAFRD, ensured the co-financing of modernization projects, which increased productivity and contributed to the growth of ROA. In France, subsidies for organic production opened access to premium markets and stimulated the growth of GM and NFI. The Spanish model of insurance programs through ENESA was oriented towards reducing production risks connected with epizootics and climate shocks, which made it possible for farmers to maintain income stability in crisis conditions. The generalization of these examples indicated the relative effectiveness of complex instruments that combined financial, investment and risk-protection mechanisms.

Table 4. Comparative analysis of institutional instruments of supporting livestock farming in European countries and the impact on the profitability of small farms

Country	Support instrument	Program characteristics	Influence on profitability
Albania	Direct subsidies per head of livestock (1,200 lek ≈EUR 12 per head/year)	Applied to herds with ≥100 sheep or goats; maximum size – 360,000 lek per farm	Partial coverage of costs; limited effect, does not stimulate herd expansion
Bulgaria	Loans with state compensation interest rate	Implemented through national banks within agricultural programs	Reduces financial risks, increases investment accessibility
Greece	Grants for farm modernization from European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	Co-financing up to 50 % of the cost of equipment and infrastructure	Significant increase in productivity; formation of positive ROA
France	Subsidies for organic production	Payments for certified organic farming	Promotes entry into premium markets, increases GM and NFI
Spain	Insurance programs from Entidad Estatal de Seguros Agrarios (ENESA)	Compensation for losses from epizootics and natural disasters	Ensures income stability, reduces risks of income fluctuations

Explanatory notes: developed by the authors based on [10, 14, 29-33, 39]

Thus, the profitability of small-scale livestock farming was formed in a multifactor environment, where price conditions, the structure of production costs, access to markets and institutional support were combined. Barriers to development remained monopsony on local markets, the increase of the cost of feed and energy resources, as well as limited access to credit programs. The experience of these countries shows that integrated, multi-level policy solutions can mitigate risks and strengthen the financial resilience of small livestock farms. Thus, the integration of financial, investment and innovation mechanisms ensured long-term incentives for development, while one-vector programs did not create a proper basis for modernization. This defined the basis for further research into adaptation strategies and search for optimal models of support, capable of combining short-term stabilization with prospects of structural transformations.

The role of the state policies in providing financial stability

A state policy of supporting the agricultural sector in the countries of South-Eastern and Western Europe was characterized by a high level of differentiation, which was conditioned by differences in the level of economic development, the structure of agricultural production and institutional mechanisms of financing. Subsidies provided

to small and medium farms performed a multifunctional role: the subsidies compensated current production costs, stimulated investment activity, supported the modernization of the technological base and contributed to the transition towards organic and environmentally oriented standards. Such an approach ensured not only short-term liquidity of producers, but also formed preconditions for long-term competitiveness.

In this context, it was reasonable to make a systematic comparison of the level and target orientation of subsidies in the countries of the region, since the parameters of state support directly determined the scale and character of the development of small and medium farms. For ensuring analytical integrity, Table 5 presented comparative characteristics of subsidies implemented in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, France and Spain. The data presented reflected not only absolute differences in financial volumes, but also the logic of state policy oriented towards different models of farming. The impact of subsidies on the profitability and resilience of small producers in different institutional conditions was analyzed, which made it possible to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches of individual countries.

Table 5. Comparison of the size and target orientation of subsidies in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, France and Spain

Country	Average size of subsidy per farm, EUR/year	Main target orientation	Orientation by scale of farms	Influence on financial stability
Albania	500 ÷ 700	Support of livestock keeping (sheep, goats)	Mainly small farms	Compensatory effect, limited development
Bulgaria	1,200 ÷ 1,500	Partial coverage of feed and veterinary costs	Medium and small farms	Reduction of production costs, moderate increase in profitability
Greece	2,000 ÷ 2,500	Investment grants for modernization and equipment	Medium farms, members of cooperatives	Increase in productivity and profitability
France	3,500 ÷ 4,000	Promotion of organic production, ecological programs	Medium and large farms integrated into the EU market	Access to premium markets, high margin
Spain	2,800 ÷ 3,200	Insurance of crops and livestock, subsidies for innovation	Small and medium farms	Reduction of risks, stabilization of incomes

Explanatory notes: the scale of farms was determined by the number of heads kept: small – up to 50, medium – 50÷200, large – over 200; the currency code EUR/year meant euro per year; sources: developed by the authors based on [11, 14, 29-33, 39]

The analysis of Table 5 indicated significant differences in the size and target orientation of subsidies between countries, which directly determined the financial resili-

ence and profitability of small farms. In Albania, subsidies performed mainly a compensatory function, since the subsidies were directed towards supporting basic costs, but the subsidies did not form incentives for investment activity or production modernization, which limited the possibilities of structural growth of the sector [1, 21, 44]. Bulgarian programs were oriented towards partial coverage of operating costs, in particular the cost of feed and veterinary services, which made it possible to reduce production costs. However, the impact on long-term profitability remained limited due to insufficient orientation towards innovation and the development of the production base. In Greece, subsidies functioned in the form of investment grants, which ensured access to financial resources for the modernization of equipment and technologies, contributing to productivity growth and the formation of conditions for sustainable profitability growth [12, 46, 55].

In the structure of institutional support in France, programs oriented towards the development of organic production and compliance with ecological standards were distinguished. Such a model made it possible for small and medium farms to integrate into the premium market segment, gaining access to higher margins and long-term contracts. The Spanish system, unlike other countries, focused on combining insurance instruments with grant support for innovations, which created conditions for minimizing risks and stabilizing incomes from the long-term perspective. Thus, the results of comparison demonstrated that the highest effectiveness was shown by those forms of subsidization that combined a short-term compensatory effect with long-term incentives for investment, modernization and entry into markets with higher added value.

In the context of analyzing a state policy, it was reasonable to distinguish between direct and indirect instruments of supporting the agricultural sector. Direct mechanisms envisaged the direct provision of financial resources to producers in the form of subsidies, grants or subventions, which made it possible to quickly compensate costs or stimulate investment activity. Indirect instruments, on the contrary, were implemented through institutional-regulatory measures, among which were tax benefits, price regulation or the financing of infrastructure projects, which indirectly formed favorable conditions for farming. The division into direct and indirect measures made it possible to assess comprehensively both the temporal effectiveness of a state policy and its impact on investment dynamics and the stability of incomes of small farms. Generalized characteristics of these instruments were presented in Table 6.

The analysis of Table 6 confirmed that direct instruments of support were characterized by a rapid and tangible impact on the financial results of small producers, but the action was mostly limited to a short- or medium-term perspective. Subsidies and subventions for covering current costs made it possible to reduce the cost of production and partly stabilize incomes, but did not form sustainable incentives for the modernization of production processes. At the same time, grant programs oriented towards sup-

porting organic production and ecological standards had a longer effect, since these programs ensured conditions for investing in new technologies, productivity growth and certification. This contributed to the entry of farms into premium markets and the formation of competitive advantages from a long-term perspective.

Table 6. Comparison of direct and indirect instruments of supporting the agricultural sector

Type of instrument	Mechanism of implementation	Temporal effect	Influence on investment activity	Influence on income resilience
Direct	Subsidies per head of livestock, grants for modernization	Short- and medium-term	Moderate stimulation of investments through access to resources	Limited stability, dependence on state financing
	Targeted subsidies for organic production	Medium- and long-term	High stimulation of investments in technologies and certification	Increased resilience due to access to premium markets
Indirect	Price regulation of products	Short-term	Weak stimulus, preservation of status quo	High short-term stability, low long-term effectiveness
	Tax benefits for small farms	Medium-term	Promotion of accumulation of resources for investment	Moderate stability through cost reduction
	Investments in transport and trade infrastructure	Long-term	High stimulus due to increased market access	Long-term income stability and risk reduction

Explanatory notes: the temporal effect defined the period of manifestation of the result: short-term (up to 2 years), medium-term (3-5 years), long-term (over 5 years); sources: developed by the authors based on [11, 14, 29-33, 39].

Indirect instruments were distinguished by a longer duration of impact, since these instruments acted through the creation of a favorable institutional and economic environment. Investments in transport, logistics and trade infrastructure ensured farmers' access to wider markets, which contributed to income diversification and reduced dependence on local demand fluctuations [7, 20]. Tax benefits made it possible to accumulate financial resources for reinvestment into production, forming preconditions for long-term development. At the same time, price regulation of agricultural products stabilized incomes only in the short-term period, not creating a basis for innovative renewal of the sector, which reduced its effectiveness in a perspective of over two years.

Summarizing the above, it could be stated that the greatest effect was produced by the combination of direct and indirect measures, which combined short-term income stabilization with long-term stimulation of investments and infrastructure development. Such complementarity of instruments made it possible to compensate the weak sides of individual approaches, creating a complex effect for the financial resilience of farms.

The experience of European countries confirmed that only integrated programs of state policy could simultaneously ensure adaptation to market fluctuations, productivity growth and orientation towards long-term growth.

Thus, state policy in the sphere of livestock farming performed a multifunctional role, combining financial, regulatory and social instruments. Complex measures that integrated subsidies, tax benefits, infrastructure investments and insurance mechanisms formed the basis for sustainable development of small and medium farms [17, 37]. Further analysis required focusing attention on how the effectiveness of these measures was transformed into specific financial results of producers, as well as how the measures influenced the ability of farms to implement long-term growth strategies and adapt to structural changes of agricultural markets.

Integration of small-scale livestock farming into strategies of rural development

The integration of small-scale livestock farming into strategies of rural development required a comprehensive consideration of interrelated economic, social and ecological factors. In modern conditions, it was considered that one of the promising directions included the combination of production functions of farms with recreational opportunities, which opened additional sources of income and reduced dependence on fluctuations of agrarian markets. This approach enhanced the financial resilience of small-scale farms by diversifying income sources and supporting new entrepreneurial activities.

Agritourism, which spread actively in Greece, Spain, France, Bulgaria and Albania, acted as an instrument of transforming small farms into multifunctional subjects of local development [41, 45, 56]. Its implementation combined economic efficiency with social usefulness, contributed to the preservation of cultural heritage, and at the same time, increased the competitiveness of local producers. The practice of these countries demonstrated that economic and social resilience could complement one another, forming a synergistic effect for territorial communities.

Given the multidimensional character of this phenomenon, the systematization of forms of integration of small-scale livestock farming into agritourism was necessary. The generalization of practices made it possible to identify the key directions of interaction of farms with the tourism sphere and to assess the impact on financial indicators, social cohesion and ecological balance. For this purpose, Table 7 presented a comparative characteristic of the main forms of integration of livestock farming into agritourism practices and gave the economic, social and ecological effects in the countries covered by the analysis.

The analysis of Table 7 demonstrated that the integration of livestock farming into agritourism ensured a significant economic effect in the form of income diversification, margin growth and promotion of products with higher added value. The social

dimension was manifested in the creation of new jobs, the support of local communities and the preservation of cultural heritage, which was particularly evident in the practices of Greece and Spain. At the same time, the ecological effect included the preservation of traditional farming methods, the reduction of transport emissions and the stimulation of organic production, which was actively introduced in France and Bulgaria. Examples from Albania, France, Greece and Spain confirmed that agritourism acted as an effective instrument of sustainable development, creating a synergistic effect between economic, social and ecological goals. This indicated the expediency of including agritourism directions into long-term strategies of supporting small-scale livestock farming, oriented towards the financial and social resilience of farms.

Table 7. Forms of integration of small-scale livestock farming into agritourism and the effects

Form of integration	Economic effect	Social effect	Ecological effect	Examples of countries
Organization of farm tours and tastings	Additional income from tourist services	Growth of employment at the local level	Maintenance of traditional practices of livestock keeping	Greece, Spain
Direct sales of products on the farm (farm-gate sales)	Increase in margin due to the shortening of the chain of intermediaries	Formation of trust between producers and consumers	Reduction of transport emissions	France, Bulgaria
Guest houses based on farms	Diversification of income through tourist accommodation	Preservation and promotion of the rural way of life	Optimization of natural resource use	Albania, France
Culinary festivals and promotion of local products	Promotion of value-added products	Support of cultural heritage and local identity	Stimulation of the use of organic production methods	Spain, Greece

Note: farm-gate sales – sale of products directly on the farm, without intermediaries.

Sources: developed by the authors based on [11, 14, 29-33, 39].

In the process of researching the integration of small-scale livestock farming into strategies of rural development, the analysis of institutional mechanisms, which ensured farms' access to financial resources, market infrastructure and knowledge, was reasonable. Such mechanisms functioned at several levels: from a state policy (as within the framework of the CAP of the EU) to regional initiatives in France and Spain, cooperative associations in Bulgaria and Albania, as well as international programs implemented with the support of FAO and the World Bank. The action contributed to strengthening financial resilience, creating conditions for the diversification of activity and integrating small producers into regional and global markets. The systematization of these institutional approaches was presented in Table 8.

Table 8. Institutional mechanisms of supporting the integration of small-scale livestock farming into strategies of rural development

Type of mechanism	Key instruments	Participants	Effect for farms	Program examples
State financing	Subsidies, grants, investment grants	Ministries of agriculture, national agencies	Increase of access to resources, stimulation of modernization	CAP of the EU
Regional programs	Preferential loans, tax discounts, local funds	Regional and municipal administrations	Cost reduction, support of diversification	Rural development programs of Spain and France
Cooperative associations	Joint purchases, marketing, product sales	Farmers' associations, cooperatives	Increase of bargaining power, reduction of production costs	Bulgarian agricultural cooperatives
Public and non-governmental initiatives	Educational programs, advisory centers	Non-governmental organization, local communities	Increase of the level of knowledge and competences	Agritourism Association of Albania
International support	Technical assistance, infrastructure projects	EU, FAO, World Bank	Access to markets, development of innovative infrastructure	FAO program on sustainable development of the Balkan region

Sources: developed by the authors based on [10, 11, 14, 29-33, 39]

The analysis of Table 8 indicated that institutional mechanisms of supporting small-scale livestock farming formed a multilevel system in which state, regional, cooperative and international initiatives were combined. Within the framework of the CAP of the EU, state instruments ensured basic financial support, which created the basis for the modernization of farms in France and Greece. The effectiveness increased when combined with regional programs oriented towards the specifics of local conditions, as observed in Spain and France. Cooperative forms of organization, which were applied actively in Bulgaria and Albania, made it possible to reduce costs for purchases, sales and marketing, as well as increased the bargaining position of small farmers on the market. Public and non-governmental initiatives, such as agritourism associations in Albania, contributed to the dissemination of knowledge and the development of competences, while international programs of FAO and the World Bank were directed towards increasing access to markets and creating innovative infrastructure in the Balkan region. The totality of the above-mentioned mechanisms strengthened the financial resilience of farms, created conditions for long-term development and reduced dependence on market fluctuations.

Financial and institutional mechanisms of supporting small-scale livestock farming in the countries of South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece) and Western Europe (France, Spain) demonstrated significant variability in structure and effectiveness. Direct instruments, in particular subsidies and grant programs, ensured a quick economic effect, although the action was mostly limited to the short-term perspective.

In contrast, indirect instruments, such as infrastructure investments, tax benefits and cooperative models, created more sustainable conditions of development, contributed to the increase of long-term profitability and ensured the adaptability of small farms to changes of the market environment.

The integration of small-scale livestock farming into the strategies of rural development proved effective when combined with agritourism, the preservation of cultural heritage and ecological practices, as confirmed by the examples of France, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria and Albania. Such directions ensured the diversification of income sources, contributed to social cohesion and formed the preconditions of ecological stability. As a result, they contributed to the formation of multifunctional farm models, capable of combining economic, social and ecological goals, which increased the role in regional development. The results obtained confirmed the expediency of a comprehensive approach that combined state, regional, cooperative and international initiatives. Such an approach increased the competitiveness of small producers, made it possible to diversify the activity and minimize risks connected with price and market fluctuations.

For Albania, it was reasonable to adapt these practices taking into account existing structural limitations. Promising directions were the development of farmers' cooperatives for organizing direct sales channels, the introduction of grant programs for the arrangement of guest houses and the promotion of local products, as well as the creation of advisory centers in partnership with international organizations. For increasing the financial resilience of livestock farming in Albania, it was necessary to expand the program of subsidies per head of livestock, in particular for small farms, which would make it possible to ensure cost stability. It was worth introducing preferential loans with interest rate compensation to support investments in production modernization and grants for the modernization of equipment and infrastructure, which would increase the efficiency of farms.

A separate stage was the introduction of subsidies for organic production, which would make it possible for small farms to enter premium markets. It was recommended to develop cooperative models to reduce costs for feed purchase and product sales. For reducing risks, it was necessary to introduce insurance programs for covering losses from epizootics and natural disasters. Investments in transport and trade infrastructure would make it possible to reduce logistics costs. Albania should integrate its support programs into joint European initiatives to expand access to resources. Such an approach would increase the financial resilience of small producers, expand participation in regional markets, and at the same time, strengthen the social role of farms as multifunctional subjects of territorial development. Implementing targeted subsidies, preferential loans and insurance programs is expected to further enhance the financial resili-

ence of small-scale livestock farms in Albania by stabilizing income flows and reducing dependence on volatile agricultural markets.

Discussion

The study established that small-scale livestock farming in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, France and Spain acted as a factor of food stability and support for social employment in rural communities. Differences between the countries concerned the level of institutional support, access to financial resources and the degree of integration of farms into market infrastructure. Quantitative analysis showed that the highest indicators of profitability and resilience were observed in countries with developed subsidy mechanisms and support for the diversification of activities. The socio-economic analysis confirmed that the combination of small-scale livestock farming with agritourism and ecological initiatives created additional sources of income and increased the resilience of farms to external risks. The generalization of results made it possible to conclude that the effectiveness of development models of small-scale livestock farming was determined by a balanced combination of economic, social and environmental factors, which ensured long-term viability.

The analysis showed that the financial resilience of small livestock farms largely depended on institutional support and integration into market infrastructure. A similar pattern was revealed by Lema et al. [22], where the effectiveness of multilevel innovation platforms in the development of small-scale livestock farming was determined by access to organizational and financial resources. This correlated with the results obtained on the role of institutional integration in increasing the resilience of farms. The study also confirmed the socio-economic importance of small-scale livestock farming, which reduced the vulnerability of households and supported employment in rural communities. Similar results were presented by Rota and Urbani [42], who argued that the development of small-scale livestock farming could become an instrument for achieving sustainable development goals in rural regions. This indicated the consistency of the conducted research with the broader trend of considering small-scale livestock farming as a factor of economic and social stability. The particular significance of cooperation and integration of small farms into wider institutional structures was also noted. Yang et al. [54], using the example of China, showed that involving farmers in systems of agrarian social services increased competitiveness and reduced dependence on market risks. The comparison with the results obtained confirmed the universal character of institutional support, which ensured the stability of small farms regardless of a national context.

The socio-economic characteristics of the functioning of small farms, identified in the conducted study, were consistent with the conclusions of Lopatynskiy et al. [24], who emphasized the role of family farms in achieving sustainable development goals.

The established relationship between the level of social cohesion of communities and the resilience of livestock farming confirmed the thesis of the aforementioned authors about the institutional capacity of family farms as a factor of the contribution to the development of rural territories. The combination of livestock farming and crop production was considered a condition of ecological and economic balance; a similar approach was observed in the work of Feng et al. [13], where political priorities and institutional barriers to the integration of agrarian sectors in China were analyzed. The comparison of results confirmed the universality of the trends of integrated farming and underlined the need for applying comprehensive models of agricultural development.

The data obtained indicated that small livestock farms had considerable importance for the inclusive development of rural areas, ensuring the creation of jobs and maintaining social cohesion. Similar patterns were revealed by Muzekenyi et al. [35], who studied the impact of support programs for small farms in South Africa. The authors showed that the development of small-scale agricultural production contributed to reducing property inequality and ensured sustainable sources of livelihood for vulnerable population groups, which was consistent with the conclusions of the research conducted. The analysis of the results emphasized that access to financial resources remained a determining factor in increasing the economic resilience of farms. According to the study of Asnawi et al. [2], the development of microfinance institutions expanded production capacities and reduced risks in the livestock sector. This confirmed the conclusion that financial support and credit mechanisms created conditions for sustainable growth even under high market volatility.

The research conducted also revealed that the economic efficiency of agricultural activity was determined not only by production, but also by financial practices. A similar approach was observed in the work of Hassan et al. [16], where the analysis of the relationship between activity in the rural sector and financial results showed that the economic benefits of livestock farming were closely linked to the level of financial stability. The results obtained were consistent with this trend, confirming the key role of financial management in increasing the viability of farms. The analysis carried out revealed that adaptive strategies of small farms ensured the preservation of production activity under the conditions of price fluctuations in agricultural markets. Similar patterns were observed in the study of Mustofa [34], which showed that the economic resilience of small enterprises in rural areas was determined by the ability to respond quickly to changes in the external environment. This correlated with the need, identified in the study, for the implementation of adaptive models in the livestock sector.

The analysis of the results confirmed that the application of modern technologies in small-scale livestock farming increased productivity and reduced production risks. The generalization of these results resonated with the conclusions of Dhillon and Mon-

cur [9], who identified innovations as a key direction for increasing the efficiency of small farms. Thus, technological modernization acted as an instrument not only of economic growth, but also of strengthening the ecological resilience of agricultural systems. The data obtained confirmed the direct link between the development of small-scale livestock farming and the level of rural population welfare. The study of Woodhill et al. [50] also proved that small forms of farming influenced the socio-economic situation of communities, ensuring food security and contributing to an increase in living standards. This confirmed the importance of small-scale livestock farming as a component of the integrated development of territories. The data of the analysis made it possible to argue that small farms and small agricultural enterprises remained key elements of regional food systems, strengthening the capacity to withstand external challenges. A similar conclusion was contained in the work of Ortiz-Miranda et al. [40], where, using a scenario approach, it was shown that small producers retained strategic importance for food security even under conditions of global competition.

A separate result of the study was the role of small-scale livestock farming as a form of ecologically oriented farming. The trends identified corresponded to the approach of Kallio and Houtbeckers [18], who considered small farms as the centers of sustainable agricultural practices and drivers of the ecological transformation of agriculture. This confirmed the conclusion about the considerable potential of small producers in shaping the ecological balance of agricultural systems. In addition, the analysis conducted confirmed that the diversification of the activity of small farms contributed to the socio-economic transformation of rural areas. The conclusions of Zvavahera and Chigora [57] confirmed this trend: the study showed that the development of agritourism created additional sources of income and stimulated the multifunctionality of the agricultural sector. This was consistent with the results obtained within the study and indicated the growing role of small-scale livestock farming in the structure of rural development. The results obtained proved that small and very small farms performed a system-forming function in the processes of the restoration and maintenance of the viability of rural areas. Similar ideas were expressed by Mihailova et al. [28], who considered such forms of farming as a key element of the model of revitalization of rural regions. In their opinion, institutional support and the strengthening of the potential of small producers could become the foundation of the economic revival of rural communities, which was fully consistent with the results obtained.

The socio-economic parameters of the functioning of small farms determined the level of resilience to external challenges and the ability to support the welfare of the rural population [15]. In the study of Bhattacharya et al. [4], dedicated to fishing farms in the Ganges basin, it was shown that the social vulnerability of local communities directly influenced the effectiveness of the integration of small producers into the sus-

tainable development system. This was consistent with the results obtained, as it confirmed the key role of the socio-economic profile in ensuring the resilience of farms. A factor of sustainable development was the diversification of the activity of small farms. The patterns established during the analysis resonated with the conclusions of Wu et al. [51], who identified agritourism as an innovative form of combining agricultural production and services. The authors emphasized that the synergy of different areas of farming created additional opportunities for development, which was confirmed by the established importance of the multifunctionality of small farms. Integrated models of activity also demonstrated considerable potential for the economic growth of rural areas. A similar trend was described by Olawuyi [38], who, in the doctoral research, outlined the prospects for combining farming and agritourism in Nigeria. The author's conclusions were confirmed by the results of the conducted analysis: the integration of different types of activity was able to form additional socio-economic advantages and strengthen the resilience of local communities.

A separate direction that ensured the competitiveness of small farms was innovativeness in the use of resources and approaches to diversification. This conclusion was consistent with the results of Wen-Ta et al. [48], who outlined the main trends and limitations of the development of agritourism in the innovation context. The results obtained confirmed that the introduction of new practices was a decisive factor in the adaptation of small farms to the challenges of the globalized market. Finally, the study established that the combination of ecologically oriented practices with the development of tourism increased the viability of agricultural systems. A similar position was presented by Xiao et al. [53], who, using a mixed methodology, showed the effectiveness of integrating ecological farming and rural tourism. The results identified during the analysis confirmed the importance of the ecological component, which formed the basis of the sustainable development of small farms and ensured the role in the transformation of agricultural systems.

Summarizing the results of the study, it could be argued that small-scale livestock farming performed a key socio-economic and ecological function in the development of rural areas, ensuring food security, employment and the reduction of inequality. Its effectiveness was determined by the combination of institutional support, access to financial resources, the diversification of activity and the introduction of innovative and ecologically oriented practices. The trends identified indicated the universal character of development models of small farms in different countries, which made it possible to consider these models as a system-forming factor of socio-economic resilience and the long-term viability of rural communities.

Conclusions

1. The study showed that the average purchase prices for milk and meat of small ruminants in 2020 ÷ 2024 had a stable growth trend in all analyzed countries. Thus, in France, the price of milk increased from EUR 1.20/liter in 2020 to EUR 1.28/liter in 2024, while in Greece, the increase amounted from EUR 1.10/liter to EUR 1.18/liter, and in Spain, from EUR 1.05/liter to EUR 1.12/liter. A similar dynamic was observed also in the meat market: in Bulgaria, the price rose from EUR 4.80/kg in 2020 to EUR 5.80/kg in 2024, in Greece, from EUR 5.50/kg to EUR 6.30/kg, and in France, from EUR 6.00/kg to EUR 6.80/kg. These trends reflected changes in demand within the dairy and meat processing industries and confirmed the positive influence of agri-food market conditions on the income stability of farms supplying raw materials for food production. These data confirmed the positive influence of market factors on the income of farms oriented towards livestock production.
2. The analysis of institutional support mechanisms revealed significant differences in the impact on the financial resilience of farms. In Albania, direct subsidies per head of livestock were limited in scale and did not stimulate production expansion. In Greece, preferential loans facilitated farmers' access to working capital, while in Bulgaria, investment programs of EAFRD reduced production costs and created conditions for a positive ROA. In France, subsidies for organic livestock farming ensured access to premium markets and a higher level of GM and NFI. In Spain, insurance programs for farms reduced risks of losses from diseases and natural disasters, stabilizing cash flows. This confirmed the key role of various institutional instruments in strengthening the financial resilience of small producers.
3. The comparison of the size and orientation of subsidies also confirmed the different levels of state support. In Albania, the average size of subsidy per farm amounted to EUR 500 ÷ 700/year and had mainly a compensatory character, while in Bulgaria, (EUR 1,200 ÷ 1,500/year) it partly reduced production costs. In Greece, larger amounts – EUR 2,000 ÷ 2,500/year – were directed towards modernization and technical renewal, which increased productivity. The highest indicators were observed in France, where subsidies of EUR 3,500 ÷ 4,000/year stimulated the development of organic production. In Spain, the level of support amounted to EUR 2,800 ÷ 3,200/year and was directed towards reducing risks through insurance and innovation programs. Such a difference in the scale and aims of subsidies formed distinctions in the levels of profitability and financial stability of farms.
4. A separate direction of the study concerned the integration of small-scale livestock farming into the strategies of rural development. It was established that the combination of livestock farming with agritourism and ecological practices promoted the

- diversification of income sources, reduced dependence on price fluctuations and strengthened the social cohesion of local communities. In many cases, these models also included on-farm processing and direct sales of livestock products, increasing value added retained at the farm level and contributing to the strengthening of local food systems. In some EU countries included in the analysis, such practices were institutionally supported, which ensured the formation of multifunctional models of farms oriented towards long-term resilience. For Albania, this experience could be adapted by expanding support programs for agritourism and creating conditions for the combination of economic, social and ecological effects in small farms. Further studies should reasonably focus on the creation of financial support models adapted to the needs of small farms, the evaluation of the effectiveness of integrating livestock farming with other sectors (agritourism, green energy), as well as the role of food processing, short supply chains and digital technologies in increasing productivity and reducing risks.
5. This study has several limitations. The analysis covers only five European countries and relies primarily on aggregated statistical and qualitative institutional data. The research does not include a full quantitative assessment of the impact of on-farm processing, short supply chains or agritourism on financial indicators at the farm level. Therefore, the findings should be interpreted as indicative rather than universally generalizable across all EU countries. Further research should include a quantitative assessment of the impact of integration into short supply chains, agritourism and ecological practices on the financial resilience of small farms.

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WARUNKI ODPORNOŚCI NA SYTUACJĘ FINANSOWĄ W GOSPODARSTWACH DOMOWYCH HODUJĄCYCH ZWIERZĘTA: ANALIZA PORÓWNAWCZA W POŁUDNIOWO-WSCHODNIEJ ALBANII

Streszczenie

Wprowadzenie. Celem badań było określenie wpływu instytucjonalnych mechanizmów wsparcia finansowego i modeli organizacyjnych na odporność i długoterminową efektywność finansową drobnej hodowli zwierząt gospodarskich. Metodologia badań opierała się na analizie porównawczej danych statystycznych dotyczących dynamiki cen skupu mleka i mięsa, wielkości i kierunku dopłat, a także instytucjonalnych mechanizmów wsparcia produkcji zwierzęcej.

Wyniki i wnioski. W efekcie ustalono, że ceny skupu mleka we Francji wzrosły z 1,20 do 1,28 euro za litr, w Grecji – z 1,10 do 1,18 euro za litr, a w Hiszpanii – z 1,05 do 1,12 euro za litr, podczas gdy ceny mięsa w Bułgarii wzrosły z 4,80 do 5,80 euro za kilogram, w Grecji – z 5,50 do 6,30 euro za kilogram, a we Francji – z 6,00 do 6,80 euro za kilogram. Analiza subsydiów wykazała, że w Albanii ich poziom wynosił 500 ÷ 700 EUR na gospodarstwo rocznie i miał efekt kompensacyjny, w Bułgarii – 1200-1500 EUR ze skutkiem redukcji kosztów, w Grecji – 2000 ÷ 2500 EUR ukierunkowane na modernizację, we

Francji – 3500 ÷ 4000 EUR ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem produkcji ekologicznej, w Hiszpanii – 2800 ÷ 3200 EUR z funkcją ubezpieczenia od ryzyka. Stwierdzono, że kompleksowe wsparcie uwzględniające warunki rynkowe zwiększyło stabilność dochodów drobnych producentów, a połączenie hodowli zwierząt z agroturystyką i praktykami ekologicznymi zapewniło dywersyfikację źródeł dochodów, wzmocniło spójność społeczną i stworzyło warunki dla zrównoważonego rozwoju obszarów wiejskich. Uzyskane wyniki mogą zostać wykorzystane przez władze państwowe, instytucje badawcze i społeczności lokalne przy opracowywaniu programów wsparcia finansowego i poprawie efektywności drobnej hodowli zwierząt.

Słowa kluczowe: dotacje, mechanizmy instytucjonalne, rentowność, produktywność, rynki rolne, dywersyfikacja dochodów 