

Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, Geneva 25 April 2017

Talking points of Minister Panariti

Minister Panariti expressed his gratitude to organizers to have invited him and giving the opportunity to speak on the role of agriculture in the achievement of SDGs in Albania.

SDGs:

Having endorsed the 2030 Agenda, the Government of Albania is aiming a comprehensive implementation in line with the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020 (NSDI II) and the EU integration agenda.

The ministry of agriculture is elaborating a two year Action Plan for the implementation and monitoring of SDGs in agriculture and rural development sector in Albania. A baseline report is being prepared to assess where the Ministry stands with the SDGs implementation and establish a baseline to measure progress

Albanian Government has created the Integrated Policy Management Groups (IPMG), coordinated by PM Office; all line ministries are involved through sectorial working groups.

IPMG ensures horizontal cooperation and are supposed to provide a leading contribution in the implementation of the SDGs and in establishing balances across the three SDG dimensions – economic, social and environment.

Contribution of agriculture:

The share of agriculture in GDP is about 23percent, and the current level of employment is very high, 42.5 percent.

Increasing investments in infrastructure and rural development will create more jobs in non-farm sector of rural economy, more jobs on farm level through support of small scale processing, marketing.

Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda

The Ministry of Agriculture has the lead for Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda.

The ministry of agriculture is focused to ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round. Recently, we are working with a school food & nutrition program, to end all forms of malnutrition.

Support to rural women

Rural women are not sufficiently engaged in economic activities. We will increase support to strengthen rural women and promote their economic engagement through financial support schemes that gives priority to rural women entrepreneurship.

Management of water resources

We are focused on integrated water resources management at all levels, including trans-boundary cooperation with neighbor countries like Macedonia, Monte Negro, etc. Our goal is to increase water-use efficiency across all sectors. The role of local government and municipalities is very important as well; we have decentralized the management of water resources giving more competencies to local government.

Climate change

Climate change is a very tangible reality; we are facing intensive floods, droughts, colds and freezes, and increase of infections due to climate change. It requires a common action and increased investments.

Actually we are dealing with lumpy skin disease that has affected all Balkan countries. A single country could not deal with this impact of climate change; we need regional approach to face it. We faced the same problem with infection on olives. We need to implement more climate-smart agricultural practices and policies.

Smallholders and climate change

Family farmers/rural smallholders have proven to be more sustainable in respect to climate change impact on agriculture. They resisted better to floods, freezes, and had less damages from disasters. They are better adapted to climate change and we will support family farms in the future. Big farms were much more affected by disasters and faced more difficulties to deal with it. We have to change our thinking and approach to smallholders.

Sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

Our policy is to balance growth and resource conservation, to balance industrial and small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture. Fishery and aquaculture are an important source of protein, incomes, and employment as well.

We have to better adapt the policy to a sustainable use of our natural resources, which are healthier and all inclusive.

Challenges

- Capacities in data collection, monitoring and report mechanism: with support from FAO we are increasing capacities in agriculture statistics, including data on SDGs;
- Cost of 2030 Agenda: The Action Plan to support the SDG implementation in Albania will include critical actions to be taken by the Government with timeframe and costing, which should be reflected with appropriate budgeting. International Funds are needed for regional projects to achieve the goals of Agenda 2030.