#### **INNOVATIVE ACTIONS UNDER THE ERDF 2000-2006**

REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON INNOVATIVE ACTIONS
«INNACT – RWG 2002-2003»
REGION OF WESTERN GREECE

**ACTION 4.:** 

SUPPORT OF ORGANIC FARMING BY ADOPTION OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

**SUB-ACTION 4.1. SUB-ACTION 4.3.** 

Dr. St. Konstantinidou-Doltsinis
Director of the Plant Protection Institute of Patras
National Agricultural Research Foundation (NAGREF)

## **SUB-ACTION 4.1:**

Analysis of organic farming management practices and retracting of the cultivation status

### This action was carried out via the following two projects:

- **Project 4.1.1.:** Study aimed to record management practices and to determine the profile of the organic farmer and elucidate his most important problems in the Region of Western Greece.
- **Project 4.1.2.:** Application of a pilot project by networking of local organic farms, public agricultural authorities, research institutions and inspection and certification bodies

# <u>project 4.1.1:</u>

## Actions made:

- Setting the specifications and/or principles of the study
- Listing of organic farmers in the Region of Western Greece (RWG) based on lists provided by Unions of organic farmers, public authorities, certification bodies, etc.
- Selection of a representative group of organic and conventional farmers in the most important crops of the RWG
- Preparation of an appropriate questionnaire
- Completion of the questionnaire by visiting the farmers
- Evaluation of the data selected
- Analysis of the questionnaire and final report

# **Project 4.1.2:**

## Actions made:

- Listing of unions of organic farms, public agricultural authorities, research institutions, inspection and certification bodies, etc.
- Establishing a network of public and private organizations involved in organic farming
- Creating a committee to coordinate the actions of the network
- Organizing different meetings of the committee
- Organizing a conference titled "Organic farming in the RWG: Development challenge for the farmer, quality of life for the citizen"
- Publishing proceedings of the Conference

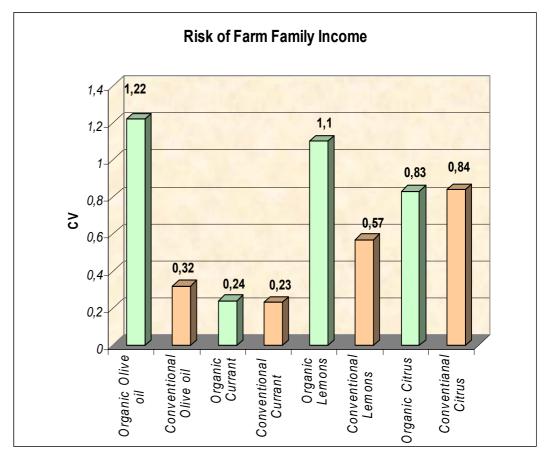
## **SUB-ACTION 4.1.:**

## Important outcomes of the study:

- A. Economic Results for main cultivations of Organic and Conventional Farms, Region of Western Greece, 2002-03
- 1. Total Gross Revenues are higher for organic farms in comparison with conventional (only exception olive oil)
- 2. Total production expenses are higher for organic farms, especially labor expenses and fertilizer cost
- 3. Net profits are higher

## A. Economic Results for main cultivations of Organic and Conventional Farms, Region of Western Greece, 2002-03

- 4. Prices for organic products are higher
- 5. Yield is lower for organic cultivations
- 6. Economic results for organic cultivations depend on product
- 7. Risk for organic cultivation is higher due to high risk of yield and price



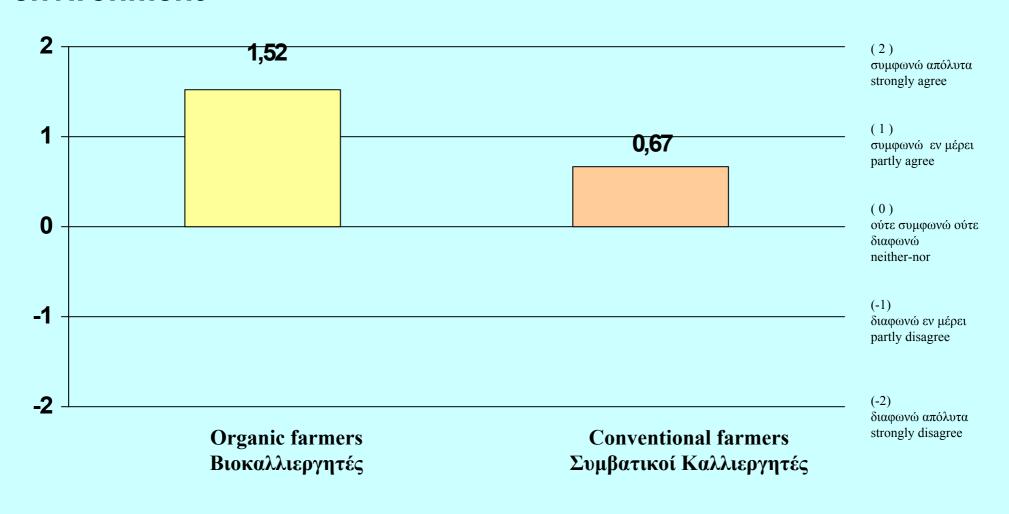
# B. Attitudes of organic and conventional farmers concerning organic farming (1)

- 1. The organic farmers are mainly motivated on the basis of financial reasons (seeking higher prices and better marketing of their organic products).
- 2. The organic farmers are more optimistic about the future perspectives of organic farming, in relation to conventional farmers. However, the farmer realize the various problems associated with organic farming (e.g. higher production cost, shortage of available labor force). These problems seem to be too huge for the conventional farmers.

- B. Attitudes of organic and conventional farmers concerning organic farming (2)
  - 3. The organic farmers, on the one hand, are still largely depended on subsidies, while, on the other, are approaching the new organic products markets.
  - 4. There is a significant lack of technical agronomic support on the organic farmers, as well as a shortage of information provision on the new trends of the food markets (concerning both organic and conventional producers).
  - 5. Both, organic and conventional farmers believe that conventional farming causes problems to the environment

# Θεωρώ ότι οι γεωργικές εκμεταλλεύσεις με εντατικό χαρακτήρα προκαλούν σοβαρά προβλήματα στο περιβάλλον

I believe that conventional farming causes serious problems to environment

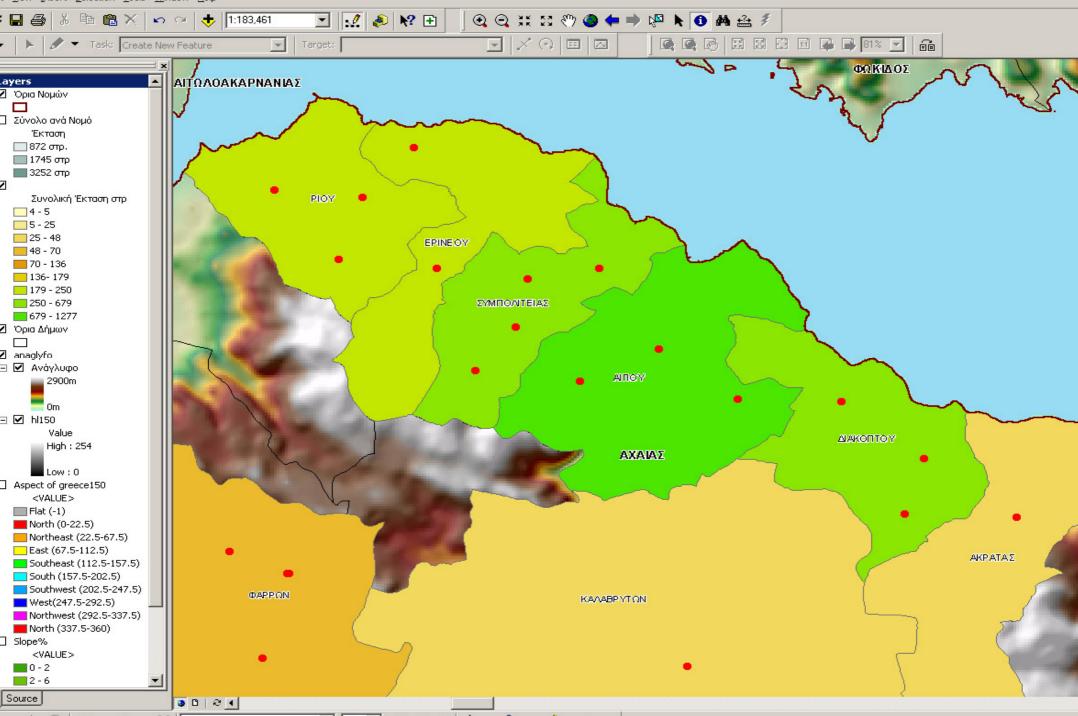


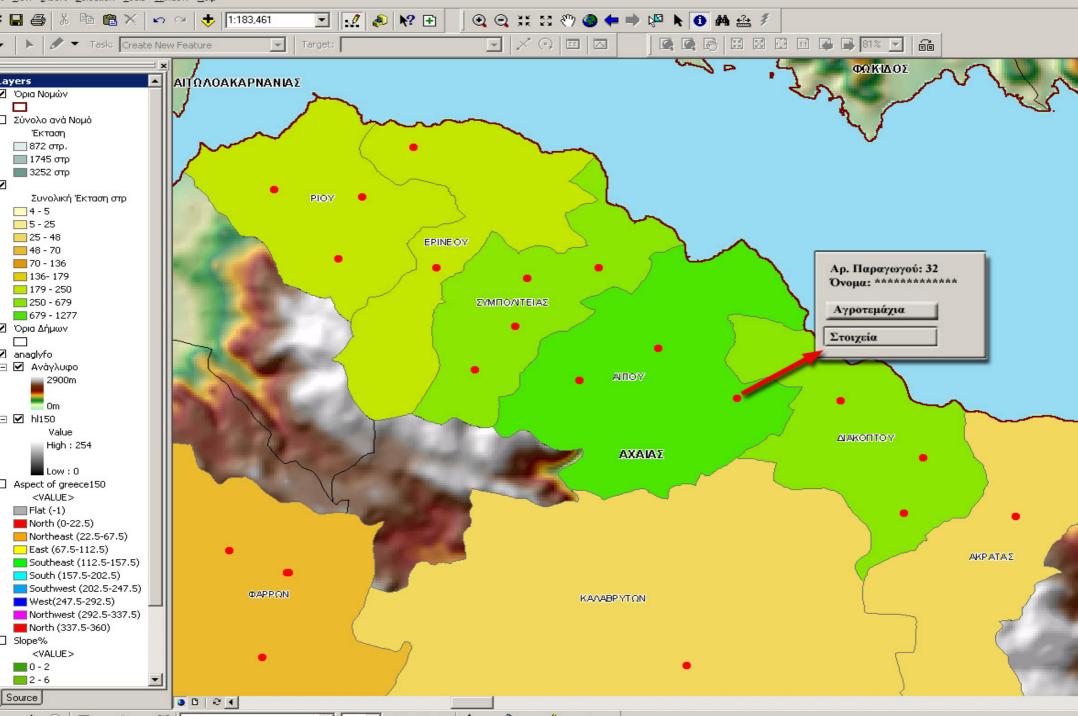
## C. Profile of organic and conventional farmers

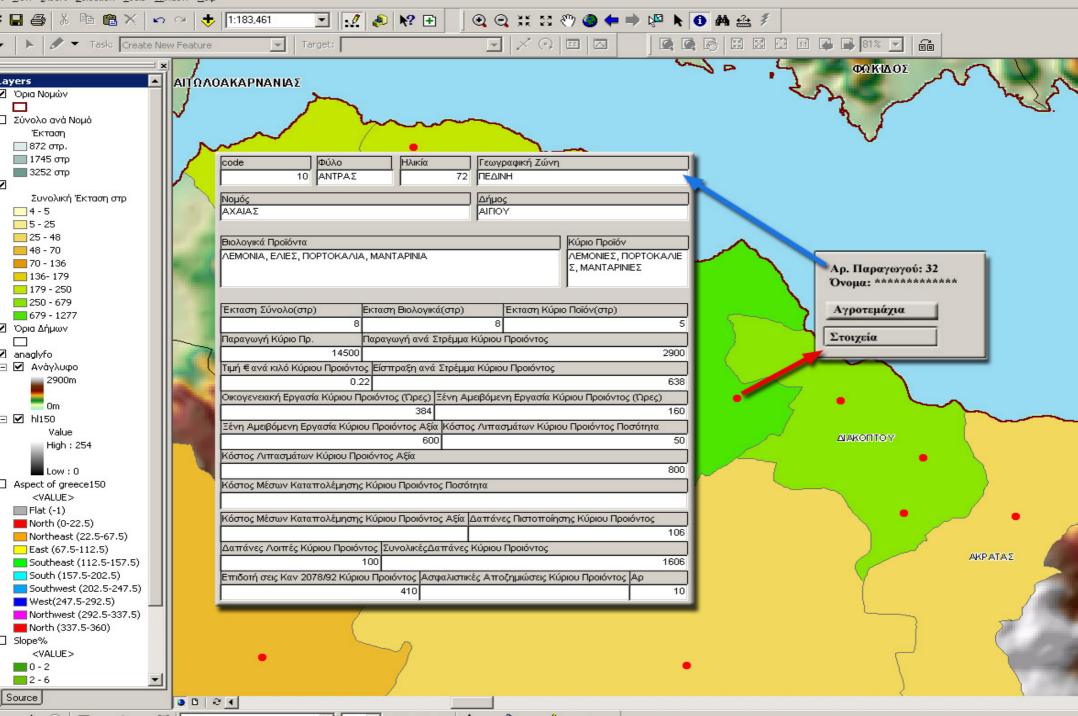
- 1. Compared to conventional farmers, a higher percentage of organic farmers have family members interested in succeeding them.
- 2. The Federations of local agricultural cooperatives and farmer groups have played a significant role in promoting organic agriculture in western Hellas.
- 3. Farmers maintain that there is a lack of appropriate and accessible processing and standardization facilities in their region.
- 4. Collective entrepreneurship is a prerequisite for profitable investments in organic agriculture (cooperatives, farmer groups, etc.)

# Creation of a data base with information on organic crops at farmer's level in the Region of Western Greece

An example:







Important outcomes of the Network:

Conference titled: "Organic farming in the RWG: Development challenge for the farmer, quality of life for the citizen"

#### ΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ ΒΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ



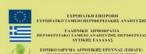
Πρόκληση ανάπτυξης για τον καλλιεργητή, ποιότητα ζωής για τον πολίτη

Σάββατο 20 Μαρτίου 2004, 09.00 - 20.30 Ξενοδοχείο PATRAS PALACE Όθωνος-Αμαλίας I5 - Πάτρα

ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΗΣ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ (ΕΘΙΑΓΕ) • ΙΝΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΦΥΤΩΝ ΠΑΤΡΑΣ

ΣΤΑ ΠΛΑΙΣΙΑ:
KAINOTOMEΣ ENEPΓΕΙΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΤΓΙΑ 2000-2006 ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ «INNACT – RWG 2002-2003»

Υποπρόγραμμα 4: Υποστήριξη της Βιολογικής Γεωργίας μέσω υιοθέτησης καινοτόμων τεχνολογιών η 4.1.2 Σχεδιασμός, οργάνωση και πιλοτική λειτου



Πληρ.: Δίκτυο Βιολογικής Γεωργίας ΠΔΕ - ΤΗΛ.: 2610 422 142



# "Organic farming in the RWG: Development challenge for the farmer, quality of life for the citizen"

Thematic areas from the Conference agenda:

- European and National Low for Organic Farming –
   cultivation practices Certification
- Education- Commerce-Market-Consumption of organic food
- Organic farming in practice: Experience from the RWG
- Organic food exhibition from organic farms in the RWG

## Sub-action 4.3:

Improvement of the services relative to disease and pest diagnosis of cultivated plants in organic farming

Establishment of a laboratory to support organic farmers having problems related to disease and pest diagnosis- creation of an advisory service on crop protection issues.

#### This action was realized via the following two projects:

- Project 4.3.1: Purchasing durable equipment/Employing scientists to operate the new equipment
- Project 4.3.2: Supporting organic farmers. Creating a data base with information on disease and pest diagnosis crop protection. Creating of a web site where the most important problems of the organic farming in the RWG are presented.

## Actions made - Present activities

- Purchasing durable equipment
- Employing two scientists (agronomists) to operate the new equipment
- Supporting organic farmers
- Operation of the Laboratory
- Open calls to farmers to visit the laboratory with samples of diseased plant tissues
- Provision of technical support to organic farmers
- Evaluation of crop protection problems in organic farming
- Creation of a data base on crop protection problems in the RWG