



SDI Review Form 1.6

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Title of the Manuscript:	Strengthening Human Capacity–Tool for Overcoming Decrease in Interest for Organic Farming
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	1) The article is important, but there is a serious lack in the data set and interpretation. Namely, there is nothing about the sale of organic Macedonian products in Macedonia and abroad (export). I suppose that it is an important reason why Macedonian organic farming is decreasing. If there is no market for the organic products, the sector can't grow. Please look for these data in last 5 years and add in your article. Try to explain the trends & opportunities in this matter. 2) The tables 3 and 4 are not completely clear. Please explain better what did you expect with these questions, what kind of conclusions can be drawn from the answers. 3) From your description I guess that you have asked mostly conventional farmers in your survey, if they are using NPK, what is forbidden in organic farming. What about the organic farmers? Did you ask them why they converted and why they stopped being organic? It would be extremely interesting! 4) Your conclusions are probably right - the advisory system in Macedonia is not good and should be improved. But you should show more data from the survey confirming this conclusion. 5) Please attach the text of a survey in the	1) Back in 2009, I have presented a Poster at a Conference in Famagusta, Northern Cyprus (in the Reference part, listed as [3]). The conclusion of that poster was that "It is imminent for the farmers and the Government too, to understand the necessity for creating suitable development rather than subsidizing support program, as the marketing agencies are demanding ready-to-sell product." Obviously, they didn't pay attention on what I have had pointed what is going to happen 6 years ago, for they had relied the development of organic farming solely by supporting it through subsidy program and not considering the whole package (research, transfer of know-how, market research, domestic market, export...). Money, just can't buy everything. This paper's objective is not the market, market trends etc. But, <u>the necessity to develop the human potential</u> in order to create sustainability. I would've considered



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	annex. It is not clear which questions were really asked. 6) You write about small and medium farmers but you don't give any results – it is very interesting issue -their opinions can differ. 7) You write about a necessity to provide the programs for young farmers, but you don't write anything about the opinions of young farmers. Please include them into your study. 8) English language should be checked again by a native speaker or a very skilled person.	proposed inclusion of market analysis, but only in case my main goal would be the financial effect of the organic farming on farm level. For the sake of being professional, I have asked the two certification bodies in Macedonia to provide me with requested data. The answer I have obtained, just today is that there are no such data. The only available data is for the last 2 years, they are for the produced quantities, but the from the data there can be no driven conclusion which would present which produced amount is sold as organic and which as conventional. 2) Table 3, points that the advisory service is client irresponsible (client as a farmer, not the Government or the Ministry). As only 6% of the advisors' activities are upon request by those who should be supported by this public institution. Ultimately, in each of the countries that had become strong in organic agriculture, the first pioneers of this movements in their respective farmers, used to be conventional farmers that were seeking advice/opinion at the extension/advisory service. Table 4,
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		indicates that advisors have no results at all in providing service related to organic farming (sine none of them holds any degree in this area of specialization). Both of the tables are related to support the hypothesis that unless there is a diversification of human resources 3) The organic farmers were analyzed by the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Water Economy, and as they say the reason for the decrease is due to low financial support!!!! What a paradox!!! 4) As indicated in the text, the Macedonian farmer family is hard in the tradition that the decision making process is left for the father or the oldest person in the house. Hence, no data on the opinion of the youth. 8) While having my exchange program at the University of Minnesota (1994), none of the colleagues that I have had worked with had complained in any way on my English. On the contrary. Later, after I have returned home, I was often labeled for receiving the ‘mid-west’ accent. Please be specific on which way you find my way of expression difficult to understand. I’m
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		open for any kind of suggestion. NOTA BENE: during the years of working with other nationalities (25 years, mostly from UK & Netherlands) I can accept that I might have received some of their way of making sentences. But...I encourage you to assist mi finding the way for better expression.
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments		