

Milan MARKOVIĆ\*, Emil ERJAVEC\*, Božidarka MARKOVIĆ\*,  
Luka JUVANČIĆ\*\*, Dušica RADONJIĆ\*

## TRADITIONAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AT THE MONTENEGRIN KATUNS

**Abstract:** The aim of this paper was to present the state of the agriculture — livestock production at Montenegrin mountains areas with focus on two distinct areas: Durmitor Mountain area and Kuči Mountains. These two areas are specific in many ways, the differences exist between them in a social aspect — richness in cultural heritage, customs related to the life in the katuns, in architecture, etc.

Methodologies used in this paper were: analyses of the existing sources of the data and information, carrying out the survey with detailed questionnaire, and the in-depth interviews with selected producers.

A brief overview on the past and importance of the katuns — temporary settlements in mountainous regions where the agricultural households stay with livestock during the summer season — was presented, including the traditional livestock rearing. There were quite strong non-written rules for using mountain pastures in the whole country, and these rules are still in place, however not so strictly applied as used to be in the past.

With changes in Montenegrin society during the XX century, traditional livestock production has been constantly decreasing, resulting in depopulation of the rural areas and complete abandonment of the most distant once. Consequently, the mountain pastures are used at much lower scale.

Decreasing trends in size of sheep and cattle populations have been reflected directly to the katuns — significantly smaller number of sheep and cattle are moved to the katuns during summer. In spite of that, in many parts of the country, traditional livestock systems still survive. Moving livestock from permanent settlements to the summer pastures in mountains is still practised all over the country.

Based on the data and information collected through the survey and the in-depth interviews, this paper discusses the main aspects of the livestock production in Durmitor and Kuči mountains areas, underlying current state of the main resources (use and structure of agricultural land, species and categories of the livestock), infrastructure on the katuns, production of dairy and other products, marketing of the products, system of livestock farming and future perspectives of the mountain agriculture — livestock production.

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\* University of Montenegro, Biotechnical Faculty, Podgorica

\*\* University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Animal Science, Slovenia

challenges and perspectives of the katuns and how the producers perceive their future and what they expect from the society were in the core of in-depth interviews with the producers. The katuns, as a unique social-cultural resource of Montenegro, should be preserved and revitalized via implementing new activities to enable them to become distinctive and attractive tourism destinations.

**Key words:** *Mountain areas, katuns, sustainable agriculture, traditional livestock production*

## INTRODUCTION

Mountainous regions, which cover nearly half of the Europe's area, are in many ways of vital importance for the European population. They supply much of the continent's water, are centres of biological and cultural biodiversity, provide various opportunities for recreation (Pötsch et. al, 2011). Mountainous regions are characterized by permanent natural handicaps due to topographic and climatic restrictions on economic and agricultural activity. Agriculture in mountain regions cannot compete with agriculture in advantaged lowlands and, with very few exceptions, cannot expect to become competitive in adopting intensive models in response to the growing global competition. This is applicable to Montenegro as the mountain country, which has large hilly and mountain areas with distinctive relief and only small areas of lowland. The climate in Montenegro varies from Mediterranean to sub-continental and continental in a very short distance. Such geography and climate conditions have created high diversity in landscape, in biodiversity, in agriculture, and in areas of high natural value farmlands.

Agriculture is a very important sector of Montenegrin economy it contributes by 7,4% to the national GVA and 24,4% of total employment (Marković, 2014). When it comes to the agricultural land and farming, relatively intensive agriculture in Montenegro is in vicinity of the capital Podgorica (Zeta-Bjelopavličić plain), close to the urban area of Nikšić (Nikšićko polje) and partly in the Coastal region and Lim valley on the North (Bijelo Polje). Traditionally, livestock production has the highest economic significance in the agricultural sector (more than 50% of its total value). Due to high percentage of meadows and pastures in the total agricultural area (above 90%), the ruminants (cattle, sheep and goats) rearing is dominant in the Montenegrin livestock sector. The cattle breeding with 93,550 heads is the largest sub-sector of the livestock production (MONSTAT, 2015). Sheep breeding (204,403 heads) is characterized by semi-extensive way of production, mainly in the North of the country. Goat breeding is also an important sector, especially in the karst areas (Central and South Region). Poultry and pig production are weak primarily due to lack of domestic production of animal feed.

Utilisation of the vast areas of natural resources (mountain pastures) is closely linked with the traditional way of rearing livestock (ruminants) during the pasture season at the mountains where katuns are located. The katun is a local name for temporary settlement in mountain regions where the agricultural household stay with livestock during the summer season, most frequently for 4 to 5 months (from the end of May or beginning of June until October).

Movement from the villages to the mountains is also known as vertical transhumance or nomadic pastoralism. The main purpose is to use mountain pastures for rearing farm animals for producing traditional milk and meat products, which are the main source of income for these households. In terms of buildings, the katuns' settlements include different types of wooden or stone structures — cottages (local names: *koliba*, *glada* or *stan*) for household members, mainly without electricity and water, where traditional production of cheese and other dairy products is still present.

The katuns have multi-values and functions for the Montenegrin society — high diversity in landscape, biodiversity, traditional agriculture and high natural value farmlands. Katuns provide a number of economic, social and environmental benefits (ecosystem services); they are also untapped potential for adding-value (leisure industry).

A long term trend in using the katuns is decreasing. Some of them are completely abandoned. Reviving of the katuns is quite rare practice. Future of the katuns relying only on traditional activity — livestock rearing and production of the traditional products, is completely unpredictable. Without serious support and diversification of their activities, the katuns do not have clear future.

The katuns are and they will be the core points for preserving the traditional way of using mountain pastures. However, the katuns face many challenges — one of the first is abandonment of the vital rural workforce, the second is the lack of infrastructure in the mountain areas, while the katun' social life is not attractive for younger generation. Hence, without other activities, starting with the different kinds of tourism, sustainability and existence of the katuns will be more and more questionable.

In spite of their values, the katuns have not been intensively researched so far. Only descriptive data can be found, not scientific research on *katuns* covering all their aspects: technology, social sciences, economics etc. Thus, the objective of this paper was to present the existing situation of traditional livestock production at the katuns in two distinctive areas Durmitor and Kuči mountains.

## METHODOLOGY

Regarding the methodology applied in this research, the first step was desk research on the existing data and information on all katuns in Montenegro. There are several quite compact mountain areas in Montenegro with recognizable type of katuns. For the purpose of this research two distinct areas were chosen: Kuči Mountain and wider Durmitor area. These two areas are characterised by their social aspect (richness in cultural heritage, customs related to the life in the katuns, architecture, etc.) and resources available for agricultural production and certain positive trends in development of agriculture (sheep and cattle rearing and production of specific dairy products, as well as new sectors of agriculture like growing potatoes, buckwheat, cereals etc). In addition, Durmitor represents the most visited and touristic exploited mountain in Montenegro, being widely recognized as the one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country. The Kuči mountains,

due to landscape characteristics, are becoming very popular among the backpackers of all kinds, being situated in the nearest vicinity of Podgorica (the biggest city in the country) and its transport, infrastructure and logistic facilities.

The second step in the katuns research was the survey. For this purpose the detailed questionnaire was prepared, with three categories of the questions:

a) Data on agricultural holdings (resources in the village, type and volume of agricultural production; livestock — species, number, breeds; farm incomes including support);

b) Data on households (family members: gender, age, education, profession, involvement in farms activities etc.); and

c) Data and information on staying at katuns (all relevant data: distance to village, location, livestock, equipment, production, marketing of products, opinion on the challenges and future plans; data on agro-tourism facilities and perspectives etc).

The survey dominant questions were quantifications and concrete answers to specific question about situation and opportunities of katuns regarding production, economic, social and policy aspects. As a logical extension of the survey presented above, the in-depth interviews were organised with the aim to go step further after the survey — to allow the producers to reflect to all relevant issues. In another words, the in-depth interview was organised with the aim to encourage farmers to make a story about their lives at katuns, their tradition, focusing on the future.



The survey was carried out during June and July of 2015, while the in-depth interviews performed on August of the same year. The number of households covered by the general survey was 54 in Kuci area and 42 in Durmitor area, while later extracted for the in-depth interviews 15 in total (7 in Durmitor and 8 in Kuči). Both the survey and the in-depth interview were carried out by the teams of experts from different fields (agriculture — livestock production, the agro-economy rural development and tourism), coming from Biotechnical faculty University of Montenegro, Biotechnical faculty Slovenia and Faculty for Tourism and Hotel Management Kotor.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Existing data analyses*

**The katuns in the past.** The katun's way of livestock rearing was a dominant way of conducting this activity throughout the entire Montenegrin history. Even the name of the country itself came in colloquial use after the "katuns of Montenegro", area on the western slopes of Lovćen mountain, where the local population was bringing the livestock for summer grazing in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. During all this time, katuns and the adherent area presented the most important categories of the economic life of central Montenegro. There were quite strong non-written rules for using mountain pastures in the whole country. All villages (clans) had precisely defined areas for founding the summer settlements — the katuns.

Importance of the amount and quality of grass on pastures led to a strict territorial demarcation of which pasture belongs to which katun. On internal side, the most important rule treated the right of clan member to build the cottages freely within the district of the katun belonging to clan, while denying this possibility to any other. Although the social atmosphere has dramatically been changed since the introduction of these rules, building of new housing facilities dominantly follows their inertia even today.

**Importance of the katuns.** The katuns, as particular characteristics of Montenegro, are very important for its agriculture and the society as a whole. With the changes in Montenegrin society during the XX century, this kind of economy has been constantly decreasing, resulting in depopulation of the rural areas and complete abandonment of the most distant villages. Consequently, mountain pastures are used at much lower scale.

There are no exact data related to the katuns, however trends in size of sheep and cattle populations are decreasing. According to Marković *et al.* (2011), during the sixties of 20<sup>th</sup> century Montenegro had about 600,000 heads of sheep. Since that period the total sheep population has been drastically reduced. Only during last 20 years sheep population had been decreased by 53%, from 480,000 heads in 1991 to 227,000 heads in 2010. These trends are reflected directly to the katuns — significantly smaller number of sheep and cattle are moved to the katuns during summer. In spite of that, in many parts of the country, traditional livestock systems are still survived. Moving up livestock from permanent settlements in villages to the summer pastures in mountains is still practised in all of the municipalities of the northern part of the country and also widely used in the Central region (Podgorica, Danilovgrad and Nikšić), and even in some coastal municipalities like Herceg Novi and Bar. This traditional farming system during the summer is pure High Nature Value (HNV) farming (Marković *et al.*, 2012; Oppermann, *et al.*, 2012.).

The katuns as a way of summer life and livestock rearing is a particular specificity of Montenegro. According to the available data (Spasojević, 2006), there are around 500 *katuns* in Montenegro, significant number of them are still used, but at a much lower scale (smaller numbers of households with reduced numbers of

animals use those resources). By practising that way of livestock production, the rural holdings contribute to maintenance of the mountain pastures and reduction of the negative effects of abandonment of the pastureland. However, there are many underutilized pastureland resources, including some non-used for many years.

According to the Biotechnical Faculty data (Livestock Selection Service report for 2011), there were 2025 households (eligible for the state subsidies), who regularly moved from their permanent settlements to the mountain 'katuns', with a minimum of 5 Livestock Units. They owned 13,647 animals of cattle, 88,065 sheep with approximately 30000 of lambs<sup>1</sup>, 5,207 goats and 1,789 horses. Having in mind that threshold, there are households with smaller number of animals who also used to practice this type of livestock production. Thus the real number of households is even bigger. Extensive grassland farms keeping small herds of cows and/or flocks of sheep and goats are widely distributed, especially in the northern, mountainous part of the country.

The main products from katuns are meat and milk. Meat production is based on lambs and beef which are placed to the market as live animals. Milk is processed into different traditional dairy products, depending of the region. In terms of households' incomes, dairy products are very important. For example, price of 1 kg of ripened (old) Skorup<sup>2</sup> from ewe's milk can go up to 25€. Price of white brine cheese is about 5€/kg. Having in mind that only 15% of total milk produced in Montenegro is processed in dairy plants, the rest (85%) is used in households, and major quantity of that milk is processed into white brine cheeses (Marković and Marković, 2009). Based on the above number of animals which use mountain pastures and their production potential, the total value of production at katuns (meat and milk) is at least 8,5 million euro, calculated for three months. The similar expert calculation was already used in the previous studies (Markovic et al. 2012). About 6 million of value comes from milk products and 2,5 million from meat production — as live weight.

Production of traditional agricultural products on the katuns is carried out in a different geographical area, characterized by specific climatic characteristics and floristic composition of the pasture. In addition to the high nutritional value, the products are characterized by specific sensory characteristics, well accepted and recognized by consumers. Among the local products, dairy and meat products represent an essential element in nutrition of the rural population at the katuns. These products are not only significant in terms of their nutritional and economic value; they represent cultural and historical identity of people from the katuns. Many dairy products from the mountain areas could easily meet the requirements needed for protection their designation of origin, which would contribute to their popularization and better marketing through tourism. Also, their technologies are specific and transmitted from generation to generation.

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<sup>1</sup> The majority of lambs were sold before moving to the katuns

<sup>2</sup> Skorup is a very specific full-fat product that cannot be classified as either cheese or butter, even it has features of both products.

The mountain natural resources and traditional livestock system are closely linked to richness in agrobiodiversity. Most of the local breeds have been adapted over generations to satisfy the needs of farmers in the conditions of their local environment where they produced typical traditional products, such as different autochthonous milk and meat products. Montenegro at a relatively small area has a significant number of autochthonous populations of farm animals. The biggest diversity is in sheep population where six local breeds exist (Jezeropivska pramenka, Zetska Žuja, Ljaba, Bardoka, Sora, Sjenička), Marković at al., 2006. These populations are very specific; some of them have very small number, and therefore are endangered. These breeds are important because of pool of specific sets of genes such as genes for high fertility, resistance to disease, and they are suitable for rearing in high mountain areas, well adapted to the natural conditions, and as such they can preserve the cultural landscape.

### *The survey (questionnaire) results*

The main results of the survey conducted in two mountain regions (Kuci and Durmitor mountains) were presented in the tables which follow.

The general data collected through carrying out the survey on the 54 households at Kuci mountains and 42 households at Durmitor area are presented in the table 1.

Table 1. The general data and results on staying and production at katuns

ITEM	KUČI	DURMITOR
Number of households interviewed	54	42
Distance from village to katuns	12–70 km	3–15 (few 70 km)
Average age of the holders*	55 years	52 years
Duration of stay at katuns	4,0–5,5 months	2,0–3,5 months
Share of production at katuns in the total annual production of the main products	50–65% of cheese	75% of skorup 35% of cheese
Volume of products sold at katuns	< 5% of dairy products	30–70% of dairy products
Incomes from agriculture in total household incomes (the total in majority of the interviewed households was 10–15 thousand euro)	up to 90%	around 90%

\* — Average age of the holders varies in a big range: from 35 to 75 years

The data presented in Table 1 show that big range (from minimum to maximum) in variation of each of the presented parameters exists. Comparing these two distinct mountain areas, significant differences exist. Duration of stay is much longer in Kuči mountains than in Durmitor; much higher volume of the products are sold directly at Durmitor katuns, due to the tourists presence. Average age of the holders of the farms is pretty similar at both katuns, while range is very big at both areas.

The general characteristics of the agricultural holdings (land use and the ownership related to the land in the villages) are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: The main characteristics of the land and livestock resources

ITEM	KUČI (n=54)		DURMITOR (n=42)	
	Year 2005	Year 2015	Year 2005	Year 2015
Used agricultural land, ha/holding*	8	9	15	20
Share of the holdings rearing sheep	48%	50%	78%	73%
Sheep: flock size	102	93	78	108
Share of the holdings rearing cattle	91%	100%	92%	100%
Cattle: herd size	7,3	7,8	5,3	8,0
Ownership of the land used in a village	60% own: 40% rented		50% own: 50% rented	
Share of holdings taking animals from other owners	25% (avg. 200 sheep)		20% (mainly sheep)	
Compensation for keeping and using animals from other owners	Milking of ewes and use of that milk		30€/sheep for 3 months of keeping at katun	

\* Agriculture land is the land in the permanent settlements — villages, while farmers at katuns in both regions use common land.

There is a big difference in holding size between these two areas; the size is much bigger at Durmitor area. There is a slight enlargement of the farm size in Kuči, while quite significant farm size increase was in Durmitor area in the last ten years. Regarding flock size (sheep) and herd size (cattle), the tendency of enlargement is quite clear in Durmitor area in the last decade, while flock size has even been decreased in Kuči area in the same period. This tendency in Kuči area is due to the fact that farmers pretend to use sheep from the other owners.

Regarding the main characteristics of the livestock, rearing of sheep and cattle are dominated, other species reared only occasionally. Majority of the families used to keep few pigs to use whey after making cheese. They also keep horses for timber providing. There is a big heterogeneity in cattle breeds (a mixture of different purebred and crosses can be found at almost every farm) and in performances. Mechanisation and modern equipment are more present at holding of Durmitor than at KUČI area.

Table 3 show that these two regions are completely different in terms of dairy production and products offered to the market. Facilities for production of dairy products generally at both areas are still very traditional what is good. However, hygienic standards sometimes are questionable. Dairy products (cheese and skorup) are mainly manufactured by females, especially in Durmitor area, However, males are mainly new knowledge and information takers.

Market channels for selling dairy products are not stable; they fluctuate very much, what creates difficulties in selling of the products.

Regarding marketing of live animals, the farmers traditionally use to sell calves from 130 kg to 180 kg live weight at average price of 3,0 euro in Kuči area, and slightly lower (2,8 euro) in Durmitor area. When it comes to lambs, there is a clear difference between the areas: lambing season in Kuči area is much earlier (January)



Table 3: Production and marketing of the main dairy products

Product	% of producers *	Production kg/holding /year	Sale, kg/holding	Price, €/kg
DURMITOR katuns (n=54)				
„Skorup” from cow milk and/or from mixed (cow + sheep) milk	85	280	130	15–18
„Skorup” from sheep milk	15	180	100	18–20
White soft cheese	83	640	360	3,5–5
Cheese „Prljo” (produced after making of skorup)	55	250	120	3–4
KUČI katuns (n=42)				
Kuči cheese — ripened/mature	85	1700	1200	4–6
Kuči cheese — fresh	60	1650	1200	3–4
Mixed cheese and skorup (local name Mješavina)	25	170	100	12–13

\* Share of producers who produce certain dairy product/s in total number of interviewed producers.

than in Durmitor area (mainly in March), due to that fact Kuči farmers used to sell lambs before going to the mountains (average live weight is about 35 kg and price 2,8 euro), while Durmitor farmers used to move lambs with ewes to the katuns and sell them in early autumn (average live weight is 40–50 kg and price 2,3 euro).

A part of the survey was related to the living conditions at the katuns. Some of the results are presented in the table 4, however this part of the survey is more qualitative than quantitative. Thus, the observations from the field visits are presented through the text which follows. Traditionally, the cottages are distinctly different in these areas, in Durmitor area cottages are of wood and called “koliba”, while in Kuči area the stone cottages (called glada) prevail. The ambient for living is quite poor, mainly one room is used for all household members. The cottages are without toilets, shower cabins etc.

Table 4: Living conditions at the katuns

Item	KUČI	DURMITOR
Facilities for living	Stone or brick buildings	Wooden buildings
Road infrastructure	Mostly macadam	Macadam or asphalt
Electric power supply	27% no power supply 56% linked to power line 17% solar panels	48% no power supply 4% linked to power line 48% solar panels
Water supply	55% rainwater	43% rain or snow water

The infrastructure is one of the main prerequisites for the katun life. In addition to the Table 4 results, the survey team concludes that infrastructure is not at satisfactory level. There are still farmers and katuns which do not have appropriate road infrastructure, even macadam roads are poor and not usable for the

passenger cars. Regarding electric power supply reasonable solution for the katuns without electric power supply could be solar panels, as already half of Durmitor farmers use it source.

Last part of the survey is related to the katun prospective from the farmers' point of view. The results are shown in the Table 5. As it can be seen from the results there is quite significant difference between two regions. Due to vicinity of Kuci katuns to Podgorica, as the biggest market centre, much higher percentage of the interviewed farmers expressed readiness to extend and enlarge production at katuns.

Table 5: The perspectives and plans from the producers' point of view

ITEM	KUČI	DURMITOR
To continue without changes	31%	43%
To extend and enlarge production	57%	29%
To reduce production	12%	17%
Share of the households interested in tourism	26%	30%
Number of households already provide a kind of tourist services	—	4 (9%)

Regarding diversification of the economic activities, nine percent of the farmers in Durmitor area have already provided tourist services (staying overnight in the katun or just offering food). In addition to that, slightly higher percentage of the farmers in Durmitor area (30%) expressed intention to provide tourist services than in Kuci (26%). The main reason for this difference is fact that Durmitor area is already well known tourist destination.

### *The in-depth interviews findings*

The survey dominant questions were quantifications and concrete answers to specific question about situation and opportunities of katuns regarding production, economic, social and policy aspects. As a logical extension of the survey presented above, the in-depth interviews were organised with the aim to go step further after the survey — to allow the producers to reflect to all relevant issues. In another words, the in-depth interview was organised with the aim to encourage farmers to make a story about their lives at katuns and tradition, focusing on their vision of the future of katuns. Their answers, concerns and thoughts on the future perspectives of the katuns are summarised and presented in the text that follows.

In spite of fact that a plenty of pasture resources exist for much bigger number of grazing animals, mountain pastures and livestock sector are facing uncertainties and environmental, technical and socio-economic challenges. Due to the negative trends (threaten to be completely abandonment many of katuns) future of traditional livestock production is not promising. Hence, the **key factors** or drivers for further development of the katuns are:

— Development of the livestock sector in the valleys and villages (katuns are highly dependent on the state of livestock sector generally);

- Good infrastructure — quality of roads to allow normal access to the village and market, especially for those katuns which are far away from the main roads;
- To provide minimum requirements in technical equipment (supply of electricity, water) and to improve hygienic standards for milking ewes and cows, making and storing dairy products;
- To establish stable and reliable channels for marketing of products, including selling katun produce on the spot, as much as possible;
- Launching new activities: rural tourism and accompanied services and inclusion it in local economy;
- To encourage and support farmers to collaborate among themselves (producers organisations)
- To provide adequate support from government and local administration.

## CONCLUSIONS

The results and findings of the questionnaire and in-depth interviews presented above enable us to formulate key recommendations on the future of the katuns. To respond appropriately to the challenges face katuns, there are three main group of stakeholders: producers, decision makers and research and professional (extension) organisations.

The issues that should be addressed to the producers follow:

- Minimum investments to improve hygienic conditions;
- To keep authenticity and originality in breeds of livestock, type of production, buildings;
- Try to sell most of the katun produce 'on the plate';
- To provide social life for young family members during stay at katuns;
- To organize farmer around the authentic product/s;
- To enhance networking and links of the producers with tourism agencies, service providers etc.

The main issues addressed to the decision makers (the line Ministries and local authorities):

- Recognition of the value of katuns
- KATUN infrastructure has to be unavoidable priority
- To increase support for using mountain pastures, including support for trainings, for young generation, females and shepherds
- Investment support in barns (in villages) and equipment at katun
- To regulate legal frame for katuns, hence for agro tourism
- To improve state of the katuns in the national parks (NPs should be accelerators not inhibitors for the development).

The last but not least, the significant number of the issues should be addressed to the researchers and professional in the extension service:

- Authenticity (traditional technologies, native breeds, ecosystem services) is of the prior interest
- Societal challenges should be highly ranked in research agenda

- To include mountain livestock production to regular educational programs of high schools and faculties
  - To provide knowledge exchange and innovation via different channels, primarily on spot trainings
  - Networking and constant dialogue with decision makers
  - Comparative studies on ways of support in other countries.
- Finally, the only holistic approach to katuns, as a treasure of the Montenegrin society, can provide their sustainable development.

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Milan MARKOVIĆ, Emil ERJAVEC, Božidarka MARKOVIĆ,  
Luka JUVANČIĆ, Dušica RADONJIĆ

## TRADICIONALNA STOČARSKA PROIZVODNJA NA CRNOGORSKIM KATUNIMA

### *Sažetak*

Cilj je ovog rada da predstavi stanje poljoprivrede — stočarske proizvodnje na crnogorskim planinskim područjima sa fokusom na dvije različite oblasti: Durmitorsko područje i Kučke planine. Ova dva područja specifična su na više načina i među njima postoje mnoge razlike: u društvenom aspektu — posebno u bogatom kulturnom nasljeđu, različiti su običaji vezani za život u katunima, brojne su razlike u načinu gradnje objekata na katunima itd.

Metodologije korišćene u ovom radu bile su: analiza postojećih izvora podataka i informacija, sprovođenje istraživanja sa sveobuhvatnim upitnikom i detaljni intervjui odabranih proizvođača.

U radu je predstavljena kratka istorija i značaj katuna — privremenih naselja u planinama gdje domaćinstva ostaju sa stokom tokom ljetnje sezone, s posbnim naglaskom na tradicionalnu stočarsku proizvodnju. U prošlosti su postojala prilično stroga nepisana pravila za korišćenje planinskih pašnjaka u cijeloj zemlji, koja su i dalje na snazi u nekim krajevima, ali se ne primjenjuju tako strogo kao u prošlosti.

Sa promjenama u crnogorskom društvu tokom XX vijeka, obim tradicionalne poljoprivrede se stalno smanjuje, a planinski pašnjaci se koriste u znatno manjoj meri. Sve to za rezultat ima depopulaciju pa čak i potpuno napuštanje najudaljenijih sela.

Rapidno opadanje broja ovaca i goveda direktno se odrazilo i odražava na katune — znatno manji broj tih vrsta stoke se tokom ljeta izdiže na katune. Uprkos tome, izdig stoke iz trajnih naselja na ljetnje pašnjake u planinama i dalje se praktikuje širom Crne Gore.

Na osnovu podataka i informacija prikupljenih sprovođenjem ankete i dubinskih intervjua, u radu su razmatrani glavni aspekti stočarske proizvodnje na području Durmitora i Kučke planine: najvažniji resursi (poljoprivredno zemljišta i njegovo korišćenje, vrste i kategorije stoke koja boravi na katunim), infrastruktura na katunima, proizvodnja mlječnih i drugih proizvoda, kanali prodaje proizvoda, sistem stočarstva i buduće perspektive planinske poljoprivrede — stočarske proizvodnje. Posebno su u obavljanju dubinskih intervjua razmatrani izazovi i perspektive katuna, kao i pitanje kako proizvođači vide svoju budućnost i šta očekuju od društva.

Katune, kao unikatan privredni i društveno-kulturni resurs Crne Gore, treba očuvati i revitalizirati kroz pokretnaje novih aktivnosti koje će im omogućiti da postanu prepoznatljive i atraktivne turističke destinacije.

Ključne reči: *planinska područja, katuni, održiva poljoprivreda, tradicionalna stočarska proizvodnja*