

PRODUCTION OF ORIENTAL TOBACCOS IN THE BALKAN COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT

Production of oriental tobaccos is mainly located in the Balkan countries, as well as in some countries of Asia and Former Soviet Republics. The share of this type in the world tobacco production is gradually decreasing. The tendency of decreasing has been clearly observed in the Balkan countries. Subsidies given by the state helped to maintain the tobacco production in Macedonia and Bulgaria. The leading producer in the last five years was Turkey with 77.570 t, followed by Bulgaria with 23.430 t, Greece - 20.494 t, Macedonia – 20.173 t, Albania-2.453 t and finally Serbia with 308 t. The total share of these countries in the world production of oriental tobacco in the last few years dropped from 60,41% to 52,70%. The main reasons for this decline is the abolishment of subsidies in Greece and the shift from tobacco toward olive production and development of tourism in Turkey. To maintain the production of oriental tobacco in the Republic of Macedonia, the government must continue with subsidization.

Key words: oriental tobacco, production, Basma, Prilep, Krumovgrad, Izmir, Samsun, Katerini

ПРОИЗВОДСТВО НА ОРИЕНТАЛСКИТЕ ТУТУНИ ВО БАЛКАНСКИТЕ ЗЕМЈИ

Производството на ориенталски тутун во светот претежно се одвива во балканските земји, како и во некои азиски земји и поранешни советски републики. Во светски рамки, ова производство полако се намалува, но тенденцијата на намалување осетно се забележува и кај производството во балканските земји. Субвенциите од страна на државата го задржаа производството во Македонија и Бугарија. Најголем производител во последните пет години е Турција со околу 77.570 тони, потоа Бугарија со 23.430 тони, Грција со 20.494 тони, Македонија со 20.173 тони, Албанија со 2.453 тони и најмало производство има Србија со 308 тони. Вкупното производство на овие земји во светското производство на ориенталски тутун во последните години е намалено од 60,41% на 52,70%. Најголема причина за намалувањето е укинвањето на субвенциите во Грција и преминувањето кон производство на маслиници и развој на туризмот во Турција. За да се задржи производството во Р Македонија неопходно е потребно да продолжи субвенционирањето на ова производство од страна на државата.

Клучни зборови: ориенталски тутун, производство, басма, прилеп, крумовград, измир, самсун, катерини

INTRODUCTION

Oriental tobacco accounts for only about 4 % of the world tobacco production. In world frames, this tobacco is grown mainly in the Balkan countries, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and also in Italy, Egypt, South Africa, Syria, etc. It is named by the area in which it is grown – Eastern Mediterranean, and its varieties are named by the towns or regions of growing (Samsun, Izmir, Katerini, Krumovgrad, Prilep, Djebel, etc.). It is also known as Turkish tobacco, because it had been grown in the Ottoman Empire. Oriental tobaccos are characterized by their small leaves. They are grown on poor soils, in areas with large number of sunny and warm days, which contributes to the formation of their strong aromatic and “sweet and sour” flavor while smoking. Cigarette blends

consist of three basic tobacco types: Virginia, Burley and Oriental. The oriental tobaccos are applied in small amounts (up to 20%), as a spice for aromatization of cigarettes. The leading importers of oriental tobaccos in the world are the USA, Japan and Germany. According to our knowledge, multinational tobacco companies are making efforts to substitute the oriental tobaccos with aromatized large-leaf tobaccos and artificial aroma, but so far without some significant success. Still, this information deserves serious attention, having in mind that tobacco growing is the only source of existence to a great number of households. It must also be mentioned that during the growing season, additional labor force composed of seasonal workers is engaged in tobacco production.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Data from FAOSTAT, Universal Leaf Tobacco Company, SOCOTAB, Alliance One Macedonia, Analyses of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of R. Serbia, Analyses of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of R. Macedonia, Yugotutun, Tobacco Institute-Prilep and our previous research in this field were used as a source for investigation on the oriental

tobacco production in the Balkan countries (Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia and Macedonia). For higher reliability, the investigations were carried out in a longer period (1995 – 2010), except for Albania where the investigation was carried out between 2005-2010. For data processing and making final conclusions, the comparative-analytical method was applied.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The total share of oriental tobaccos is about 4% (2010) of the total tobacco production in the world. Until 2000 this production ranged 500.000 to 600.000 tons, but after 2000 there was a tendency of decreasing and in the last few years the production has been stabilized at about

250.000 tons. The drop in the world production of oriental tobaccos is consecutively followed by a drop in the Balkan tobacco producing countries.

In this paper, analysis was also made on the share of certain tobacco types by country of production.

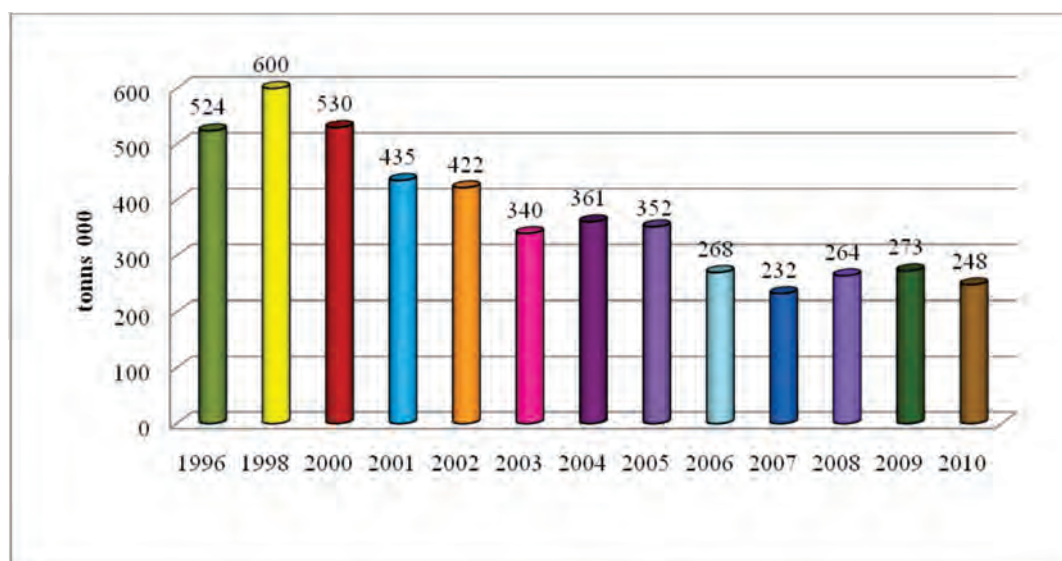


Figure 1. World production of oriental tobacco (1996-2010)

Until 2000, Turkey was the largest producer of oriental tobaccos with over 200.000 tons annual production.

Data on tobacco production in Turkey

(Table 1) clearly show a decline from 2000 to 2005 and even more rapid decline after 2005, so that for 2010 it is predicted to fall on 52.742 tons.

Table 1. Classical and non-classical oriental tobacco production in Turkey (in tons)

| Years | Variety | | | | | | | Total | Index |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|----------|---------|--------|
| | Izmir | Samsun | Basma | Other Bleck Sea | Marmara | East and South East | Katerini | | |
| 1996 ¹⁾ | 127.198 | 18.203 | 7.503 | 5.600 | 4.101 | 65.099 | 0 | 224.602 | 100,00 |
| 2000 | 114.171 | 17.216 | 9.561 | 5.746 | 3.969 | 46.984 | 0 | 197.647 | 88,00 |
| 2001 | 91.031 | 12.648 | 6.209 | 3.998 | 3.209 | 24.304 | 0 | 141.399 | 62,96 |
| 2002 | 106.360 | 15.870 | 5.950 | 3.240 | 2.320 | 22.384 | 0 | 156.124 | 69,51 |
| 2003 | 66.287 | 10.093 | 3.565 | 1.740 | 1.282 | 25.996 | 0 | 108.963 | 48,51 |
| 2004 | 81.642 | 9.562 | 4.500 | 1.169 | 1.741 | 25.403 | 0 | 124.017 | 55,22 |
| 2005 | 83.441 | 11.221 | 5.462 | 969 | 1.596 | 26.386 | 0 | 129.075 | 57,47 |
| 2006 | 53.850 | 9.904 | 4.404 | 966 | 861 | 23.240 | 0 | 93.225 | 41,51 |
| 2007 | 38.557 | 8.938 | 3.542 | 606 | 794 | 18.431 | 0 | 70.868 | 31,55 |
| 2008 | 59.736 | 7.908 | 3.641 | 664 | 149 | 19.259 | 40 | 91.397 | 40,69 |
| 2009 | 63.413 | 9.533 | 4.513 | 0 | 10 | 1.690 | 458 | 79.617 | 35,45 |
| 2010 ²⁾ | 41.260 | 2.800 | 4.800 | 0 | 40 | 3.080 | 762 | 52.742 | 23,48 |
| \bar{x} (2006-2010) | 51.363 | 7.817 | 4.180 | 447 | 371 | 13.140 | 252 | 77.570 | 34,54 |
| % | 66,22 | 10,08 | 5,38 | 0,58 | 0,48 | 16,94 | 0,32 | 100,00 | - |

²⁾ Semiofficial data

According to the data for the last 5 years, it can be stated that Izmir, with an average share of 66,22%, has the most important place in the production of oriental tobacco in Turkey. It can be observed that production of non-classical oriental tobaccos is slowly but surely decreasing. In 2010 the production dropped to only 23,48%, which is more than four times lower compared to that in 1996. Decline in the oriental tobacco production in Turkey is a result of the tendency to substitute tobacco with perennial crops (olives), development of tourism in the Aegean part of Turkey - the region where these tobaccos were grown mostly, as well as the lack of labor force due to the outflow of young people to Western countries

From data presented in Table 2, it can be seen that oriental tobacco production in

Greece has been significantly reduced since 2000, as a result of the abolishment of tobacco subsidies from the European Union, payment of subsidies to the producers several years after they stopped growing tobacco and providing subsidies for alternative crops (these subsidies are known as “lazy money”). Presently, non-typical oriental (semi-oriental) tobaccos in Greece, like Sochoumi, Kaba-koulak & Ellassona, Myrodata Agrinion, Tzebelia and Mavra are not produced anymore. Only the typical and best quality tobaccos Katerini and Basma are still grown, and they account for 99% of tobacco production in Greece. The production of tobacco in this country is almost four times lower compared to that in 2000. The same tendency is observed in Greece and Turkey, with over four times lower production (23,77%) compared to 1995.

Table 2, Classical and non-classical oriental tobacco production in Greece (in tons)

| Years | Variety | | | | | | | Total | Index |
|------------------------|---------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------|-------|--------|--------|
| | Basma | Katerini | Socho- umi | Kaba- koulak & Ellassona | Myrodata Agrinion | Tzebelia | Mavra | | |
| 1995 | 23.748 | 18.166 | 4.782 | 5.810 | 4.592 | 10.457 | 3.885 | 78.670 | 100,00 |
| 2000 | 27.342 | 18.059 | 5.957 | 12.162 | 4.610 | 7.224 | 3.359 | 78.713 | 100,05 |
| 2001 | 26.803 | 16.732 | 6.570 | 9.920 | 3.294 | 3.584 | 2.977 | 69.880 | 88,83 |
| 2002 | 27.489 | 17.143 | 6.198 | 6.878 | 2.889 | 1.597 | 1.587 | 63.781 | 81,07 |
| 2003 | 26.270 | 16.421 | 5.708 | 5.577 | 2.223 | 793 | 800 | 57.792 | 73,46 |
| 2004 | 27.887 | 16.803 | 4.844 | 4.014 | 1.857 | 588 | 603 | 56.596 | 71,94 |
| 2005 | 27.376 | 18.640 | 4.273 | 1.165 | 622 | 491 | 303 | 52.870 | 67,20 |
| 2006 | 11.585 | 10.050 | 85 | 16 | 17 | 2 | 1 | 21.756 | 27,65 |
| 2007 | 10.994 | 10.448 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21.442 | 27,26 |
| 2008 | 9.639 | 10.447 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20.086 | 25,53 |
| 2009 | 9.083 | 11.407 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20.490 | 26,05 |
| 2010 ¹⁾ | 9.000 | 9.700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18.700 | 23,77 |
| \bar{x} (2006/10) | 10.060 | 10.410 | 17 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 20.494 | 26,05 |
| % | 49,09 | 50,79 | 0,08 | 0,01 | 0,02 | | | 100,00 | - |

¹⁾ Semiofficial data

Table 3, Classical and non-classical oriental tobacco production in Bulgaria (in tons)

| Years | Variety | | | | | | | Total | Index |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|----------|-------------|-------|----------------|-----------------|--------|--------|
| | Krumov-grad | Krumov-grad K | Nevrokop | East Balkan | Basma | Other Oriental | North Bulgarian | | |
| 1995 | 5.000 | 0 | 3.500 | 500 | 1.000 | 3.400 | 1.500 | 14.900 | - |
| 2000 | 6.700 | 0 | 6.400 | 1.200 | 900 | 4.400 | 3.000 | 22.600 | 100,00 |
| 2001 | 11.000 | 0 | 6.000 | 1.200 | 400 | 5.000 | 4.000 | 27.600 | 122,12 |
| 2002 | 14.000 | 0 | 5.000 | 1.800 | 400 | 5.900 | 4.000 | 31.100 | 137,61 |
| 2003 | 14.300 | 0 | 6.050 | 2.046 | 825 | 3.454 | 1.870 | 28.545 | 126,31 |
| 2004 | 14.000 | 0 | 5.600 | 1.800 | 1.100 | 6.000 | 5.000 | 33.500 | 148,23 |
| 2005 | 18.000 | 0 | 1.500 | 1.300 | 3.850 | 5.470 | 5.500 | 35.620 | 157,61 |
| 2006 | 12.800 | 0 | 250 | 600 | 800 | 1.100 | 1.800 | 17.350 | 76,77 |
| 2007 | 15.950 | 50 | 300 | 733 | 214 | 0 | 1.000 | 18.247 | 80,74 |
| 2008 | 16.000 | 800 | 400 | 951 | 250 | 0 | 3.500 | 21.901 | 96,91 |
| 2009 | 19.500 | 1.400 | 130 | 1.341 | 120 | 50 | 6.300 | 28.841 | 127,62 |
| 2010 ²⁾ | 21.000 | 1.900 | 100 | 1.021 | 250 | 40 | 6.500 | 30.811 | 136,33 |
| \bar{x} | 17.050 | 830 | 236 | 929 | 327 | 238 | 3.820 | 23.430 | 103,67 |
| (2006/10) % | 72,77 | 3,54 | 1,02 | 3,97 | 1,39 | 1,01 | 16,30 | 100,00 | - |

²⁾ Semiofficial data

Tobacco production in Bulgaria is characterized with big oscillations, but it still maintains certain level, which is due to the state policy and payment of subsidies. According to data presented in Table 3, the average production in the last five years approximated 23.430 tons, with high oscillations. In Bulgaria, the situation is very similar to that in Turkey and Greece: there is a tendency of restructuring of tobacco types and varieties, i.e. reduction of semi-oriental tobaccos, which are characterized by larger and less aromatic leaves. There is insignificant production of the types Krumovgrad K, Nevrokop, Istocen Balkan (East Balkan) and other oriental tobaccos. More stable is the production of the type Severna Bugarija (North Bulgaria)– 3.820 tons, which presents 16% of the production. The most

frequently produced oriental tobacco in Bulgaria is Krumovgrad, with a share of 72,77% or almost four thirds of the total production.

Republic of Macedonia is distinguished by tobacco production which consists only of oriental types, unlike other Balkan countries where large-leaf tobacco of the types Virginia and Burley is also present. In Macedonia there were also big oscillations in tobacco production, depending on the state policy. In fact, this production was going to collapse, but with the subsidizing policy of the state it has been reestablished, with good opportunities even to increase. This is especially important because there is no alternative crop that would absorb so much labor force and would have such an economic impact as tobacco.

Table 4, Classical and non-classical oriental tobacco production in Macedonia (in tons)

| Years | Variety | | | | | Total | Index |
|--------------------|---------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| | Prilep | Yaka | Djebel | Basmak | Otlja | | |
| 1995 | 6.952 | 5.527 | 904 | 0 | 1.163 | 14.546 | - |
| 2000 | 12.394 | 6.169 | 410 | 0 | 546 | 19.519 | 100,00 |
| 2001 | 12.698 | 7.476 | 336 | 0 | 41 | 20.551 | 105,29 |
| 2002 | 14.029 | 9.202 | 165 | 0 | 35 | 23.431 | 120,04 |
| 2003 | 10.031 | 5.225 | 109 | 0 | 0 | 15.365 | 78,72 |
| 2004 | 13.104 | 6.447 | 215 | 0 | 0 | 19.766 | 101,26 |
| 2005 | 14.764 | 7.275 | 0 | 1.166 | 0 | 23.205 | 118,88 |
| 2006 | 11.884 | 6.145 | 0 | 1.651 | 0 | 19.680 | 100,82 |
| 2007 | 10.115 | 4.166 | 86 | 1.920 | 0 | 16.287 | 83,44 |
| 2008 | 9.065 | 4.465 | 46 | 2.549 | 0 | 16.125 | 82,61 |
| 2009 | 13.393 | 6.294 | 212 | 3.321 | 56 | 23.276 | 119,25 |
| 2010 ¹⁾ | 19.000 | 5.000 | 400 | 1.000 | 100 | 25.500 | 130,64 |
| \bar{x} | 12.691 | 5.214 | 149 | 2.088 | 31 | 20.173 | 103,35 |
| (2006/10) % | 62,91 | 25,85 | 0,74 | 10,35 | 0,15 | 100,00 | - |

¹⁾ Semiofficial data

In relation to the restructuring of tobacco types and varieties in Macedonia, the same tendencies are observed as in other Balkan countries. The highest percentage in the last five years falls on the type Prilep, with average production of 62,91%. It is followed by the type Yaka, which average production is 25,85%.

Since 2005, the type Basmak has been added to the list of tobaccos grown in R. Macedonia, with a share of 10,35%, but with a tendency of decreasing. Participation of the types Djebel and Otlja is only symbolic, achieving 0,74 and 0,15%, respectively.

Table 5. Classical and non-classical oriental tobacco production in Albania (in tons)

| Years | Variety | | | | | | | Total | Index |
|-----------|----------------|----------|--------|-------|---------|----------------|--------------------|--------|--------|
| | Roskovec -2 | Katerini | Llvinë | MS-81 | Sheldia | Koplik 23/1 | Kabaku- llak 2A | | |
| 2005 | 435 | 780 | 360 | 240 | 192 | 216 | 200 | 2.423 | 100,00 |
| 2006 | 448 | 852 | 330 | 210 | 156 | 210 | 300 | 2.506 | 103,43 |
| 2007 | 405 | 900 | 252 | 169 | 225 | 240 | 275 | 2.466 | 101,77 |
| 2008 | 330 | 930 | 206 | 233 | 218 | 218 | 294 | 2.429 | 100,25 |
| 2009 | 270 | 1.072 | 168 | 162 | 200 | 188 | 285 | 2.345 | 96,78 |
| 2010 | 262 | 1.116 | 192 | 158 | 248 | 190 | 354 | 2.520 | 104,00 |
| \bar{x} | 358 | 942 | 251 | 195 | 207 | 210 | 285 | 2.448 | 101,03 |
| % | 14,62 | 38,48 | 10,25 | 7,97 | 8,46 | 8,58 | 11,64 | 100,00 | - |

Table 6. Classical and non-classical oriental tobacco production in Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia and Albania (in tons)

| Years | Balkan countries | | | | | | Balkan countries, Total | Index |
|---------------------|------------------|--------|----------|-----------|--------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| | Turkey | Greece | Bulgaria | Macedonia | Serbia | Albania | | |
| 1995/6 | 224.602 | 78.670 | 14.900 | 14.546 | 6.797 | - | 339.515 | 100,00 |
| 2000 | 197.647 | 78.713 | 22.600 | 19.519 | 4.949 | - | 323.428 | 95,26 |
| 2001 | 141.399 | 69.880 | 27.600 | 20.551 | 5.309 | - | 264.739 | 77,98 |
| 2002 | 156.124 | 63.781 | 31.100 | 23.431 | 4.679 | - | 279.115 | 82,21 |
| 2003 | 108.963 | 57.792 | 28.545 | 15.365 | 391 | - | 211.056 | 62,16 |
| 2004 | 124.017 | 56.596 | 33.500 | 19.766 | 384 | - | 234.263 | 69,00 |
| 2005 | 129.075 | 52.870 | 35.620 | 23.205 | 254 | 2.423 | 243.447 | 71,70 |
| 2006 | 93.225 | 21.756 | 17.350 | 19.680 | 220 | 2.506 | 154.737 | 45,58 |
| 2007 | 70.868 | 21.442 | 18.247 | 16.287 | 277 | 2.466 | 129.587 | 38,17 |
| 2008 | 91.397 | 20.086 | 21.901 | 16.125 | 300 | 2.429 | 152.238 | 44,84 |
| 2009 | 79.617 | 20.490 | 28.841 | 23.276 | 322 | 2.345 | 154.591 | 45,53 |
| 2010 ¹⁾ | 52.742 | 18.700 | 30.811 | 25.500 | 420 | 2.520 | 130.693 | 38,49 |
| \bar{x} 1995/2010 | 122.473 | 46.731 | 25.918 | 19.771 | 2.025 | - | 216.918 | 63,89 |
| \bar{x} 2006/2010 | 77.570 | 20.494 | 23.430 | 20.173 | 308 | 2.453 | 144.428 | 42,54 |
| % 1995/2010 | 56,46 | 21,54 | 11,95 | 9,12 | 0,93 | - | 100,00 | - |
| % 2006/2010 | 53,71 | 14,19 | 16,22 | 13,97 | 0,21 | 1,70 | 100,00 | - |
| Trend 2011 | 44.739 | 10.962 | 29.030 | 22.241 | 417 | 2.445 | 107.389 | 31,07 |
| Trend 2012 | 33.363 | 5.819 | 26.837 | 21.628 | 435 | 2.444 | 88.082 | 28,53 |
| Trend 2013 | 21.990 | 1 | 29.940 | 22.960 | 475 | 2.443 | 75.366 | - |

Table 7. Average tobacco production expressed in % of World Total production Oriental tobacco

| Years | World Total Oriental tobacco production, tons | % Turkey/World Total Oriental tobacco | % Greece/World Total Oriental tobacco | % Bulgaria/World Total Oriental tobacco | % Macedonia/World Total production of Oriental tobacco | % Serbia/World Total Oriental tobacco | % Albania/World Total Oriental tobacco | % Total production in Balkan countries/World Total Oriental tobacco |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| | 1995 | 524.000 | 42,86 | 15,01 | 2,84 | 2,78 | 1,30 | - |
| 2000 | 530.000 | 37,29 | 14,85 | 4,26 | 3,68 | 0,93 | - | 61,02 |
| 2001 | 435.000 | 32,51 | 16,06 | 6,34 | 4,72 | 1,22 | - | 60,86 |
| 2002 | 422.000 | 37,00 | 15,11 | 7,37 | 5,55 | 1,11 | - | 66,14 |
| 2003 | 340.000 | 32,05 | 17,00 | 8,40 | 4,52 | 0,12 | - | 62,08 |
| 2004 | 361.000 | 34,35 | 15,68 | 9,28 | 5,48 | 0,11 | - | 64,90 |
| 2005 | 352.000 | 36,67 | 15,02 | 10,12 | 6,59 | 0,07 | 0,67 | 69,14 |
| 2006 | 268.000 | 34,79 | 8,12 | 6,47 | 7,34 | 0,08 | 0,93 | 57,73 |
| 2007 | 232.000 | 30,55 | 9,24 | 7,87 | 7,02 | 0,12 | 1,06 | 55,85 |
| 2008 | 264.000 | 34,62 | 7,61 | 8,30 | 6,11 | 0,11 | 0,92 | 57,66 |
| 2009 | 273.000 | 29,16 | 7,51 | 10,56 | 8,53 | 0,12 | 0,86 | 56,74 |
| 2010 ¹⁾ | 248.000 | 21,27 | 7,54 | 12,42 | 10,28 | 0,17 | 1,02 | 52,70 |
| \bar{x} | 354.083 | 33,59 | 12,40 | 7,85 | 6,05 | 0,46 | 0,91 | 60,80 |

According to the presented data on the oriental tobacco production in the Balkan countries in relation to the world production of this type, it can be stated that Turkey has the largest share, ranging from 21,27% in 2010 to 42,86% in 1995, which is an average of 33,59%. The following country is Greece, with a production of 7,51 in 2009 to 17,00% in 2003. Interesting situation is observed in Bulgaria and Macedonia, with a share ranging respectively from 2,84 and 2,78% in 1995 to 12,42% and 10,28% in 2010. The share of Serbian oriental tobaccos significantly dropped after 2003, both as a result of the transition period for tobacco industry in this country and of the lack of interest among the new owners (Philip Morris, British American Tobacco –BAT, etc.). The average production in Albania is 2453 tons or about 1,7% of the total production of oriental tobacco in the Balkan.

Among all Balkan countries, Serbia had the smallest share in the total world production of oriental tobacco in the investigated period, ranging from 0,07% in 2005 to 1,30% in 1995/1996. In the total production of oriental tobaccos in the Balkan, the share of Serbia is only 0,22 - 0,93%. After the period of transition in Serbia, there is only one company to purchase and

process oriental tobacco, mainly of the variety Prilep P-156.

Actually, even the share of Bulgarian and Macedonian oriental tobacco is not increased as much as it seems; such impression is obtained because the world production of oriental tobacco is in decline, especially in Turkey and Greece. The average share of oriental tobacco from the six Balkan countries dropped from 64,80% in 1995 to 52,70% in 2010.

Summary values on the production of oriental tobaccos in the six Balkan countries-producers of the best quality oriental tobaccos in the world, are presented in Table 6. The data reveal the average movement of production in these countries in the last six years and throughout the whole period of investigation and the trend for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

They also show a significant decline of the oriental tobacco production in Turkey and Greece. Big oscillations in this production were observed in Bulgaria and Macedonia, but subsiding policy helped to maintain it at an acceptable level, although still below the multiple-year averages. Unofficially, the production of oriental tobacco in 2010 in the six Balkan countries is about 130.693 tons, which is 38,49% of that achieved over ten years ago.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on our analysis, it can be stated that production of oriental tobacco in Turkey and Bulgaria was reduced for over four times, while in Bulgaria and Macedonia it is maintained at acceptable level, although still below the multiple-year averages. The reason for this decline in Turkey is due to the shift from tobacco toward olive growing but also to the development of tourism in the Aegean part of Turkey, in the region of Izmir, and to the outflow of young people to Western countries for a better and more secure existence. The main reason for the decline in Greece is the abolishment of the EU tobacco subsidies, which values exceeded the price for purchased oriental tobacco. In Bulgaria and Macedonia, production of oriental tobacco has been maintained due to the subsidies provided by the governments of these two countries. In Serbia, the main reason for decrease is the lack

of interest of the new owners to produce oriental tobacco.

Another phenomenon to be emphasized is the restructuring of the type assortment of oriental tobaccos and elimination of the semi-oriental and the lower quality tobaccos.

Macedonia and Bulgaria, supported by the governments subsidy policy, should increase their production of oriental tobaccos because the production in Greece and Turkey will continue to decrease.

The trend in production of oriental tobaccos in the investigated Balkan countries shows further linear decline.

We must also mention the global changes and shifting of tobacco production to developing countries, because they will have a great impact on production of oriental tobacco in the Balkan countries.

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