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## Evolution of Greek agriculture with emphasis on Interwar period: A historical approach

**Abstract.** *This article reviews the main events composing the developments of Greek agriculture during the Interwar period, paying tribute principally to agriculturists, the main actors to whom the State assigned the task and who bore the burden of materializing State's policy. However, a brief account is given at first to Greek agricultural evolution in the 19th century after the War of Independence of Greece from the Ottoman Empire in 1821, in order to pose the questions and give the physiognomy of the environment wherein various events took place. Such events included the struggle of landless peasants for settlement – a promise given by the State to the veterans of the War of Independence – as well as the Parliamentary Law for the expropriation of big estates (tsifliks) and the efforts for the agricultural settlement of native peasants. As regards the Interwar period there were two colossal tasks to be accomplished. Firstly, the final agricultural settlement of landless peasants, together with that of 1.3 million of Greek refugees arriving at mainland after the Greek catastrophic defeat by the Turks in Minor Asia in 1922. Secondly, the successful tackling of the greatest problem of the Greek agricultural history, namely wheat self-sufficiency and the rise of wheat production as well as the protection of wheat producers, who otherwise would be a prey to usurers' mercy. In addition, further milestones were laid in Greek agriculture during the Interwar period such as the establishment of the Ministry of Agriculture, the foundation of Agricultural Bank, the Agricultural University in Athens, the adoption of the Co-operatives Law, the great efforts for land reclamation and the introduction in the cultivation of modern agricultural machinery. Furthermore, brief account is also given to developments of Greek agriculture from 1940 onwards, including the confrontation of local people's famine during German Occupation through food provisioning, the Resistance, as well as the Civil War, the Truman Doctrine, the Marshal Plan, Food and Agriculture Organization mission to Greece and the country's Reconstruction, arriving at Greece's entry as a full member to the European Economic Community on 1st January 1981.*

**Keywords:** *Greece; refugees' agricultural settlement; wheat self-sufficiency; land reclamation*



## **Introduction.**

The Interwar period from an agricultural point of view has been characterized as an “agricultural miracle”. In general, Greece has a long and eventful history (Clogg, 2002). Being a mountainous country with Mediterranean climate, could not nourish large population, so that, since ancient times, big cities like Athens, imported considerable part of wheat required from abroad. This lack of wheat turned Greeks to the sea, reached naval supremacy, made colonies round the Mediterranean basin and the Black Sea, thus giving the Hellenic civilization to the humanity. Later on, in Byzantium, the torch was taken by Thessaloniki and Constantinople which were distinguished in the roads of international trade. Eventually, Hellenic people won top naval position globally for almost 3000 years up till now. This top naval position is still ongoing despite that Greece is a relatively small country.

Even if it seems oxymoron, starting-point for a brave uplift for Greece in the agricultural sector was the most tragic year of its modern history i.e. 1922, after the catastrophe they suffered in Minor Asia. It was in this tragic scene when, as an expression of contradiction which characterizes the Hellenic race, the great agricultural epic of the Interwar period was born. Following the Parliamentary Law for the creation of Central Agricultural Co-operatives Administration and the establishment of the Ministry of Agriculture during WWI, at that period the native landless peasants’ but also the refugees’ settlement was completed. In addition, Agricultural Bank was established and land reclamation works started, but especially the dragged-on question for wheat self-sufficiency was tackled and the foundations were put for solving this major problem.

The purpose of the present article is to lighten the relevant historiography so that make known to a broader readership the achievements of Greek agriculturists this era, so that this period to be called as an “agricultural miracle”.

## **Methodology.**

The present study tries to put past events composing of works which took place in the agricultural sector during the Interwar period in chronological order. It necessitated the use of archive material taken from various sites throughout Greece, mainly the library of Agricultural University of Athens. Additionally, the author, by reviewing this issue, made use of further sources including dissertations, books, symposia proceedings or scientific journals. Finally, the author used also a narrative approach by interviewing in the past various people who lived and worked for Greek agriculture in the Interwar era. In this respect I talked to Prof. Andreas I. Karamanos, son of Ioannis Stav. Karamanos, Director General in the epic of agricultural settlement of Greek refugees after the Catastrophe in Minor Asia, but I talked also, just before he died, to Prof. Ioannis Papadakis, the one who solved the greatest problem of Greek history, that of achieving wheat self-sufficiency.

## **Results and Discussion.**

### **Reference to Greek agriculture since the War of Independence from Ottoman Empire up to the end of WWI (World War One).**

#### ***From year 1821 to 1918.***

The arrival of Ioannis Kapodistrias at Greece in January 1828 is usually considered as starting point for the date of the Modern Greek History, although Greece's Independence was declared in 1830 and the borders of its territory were eventually fixed in 1832 (Dakin, 1952). With the beginning of 1827, the situation in Greece had come to a terrible situation and the Greeks finding themselves in front of a dead end, due to the existing civil wars in the country, they decided, above all, to call as a leader a Greek from abroad, since nobody was proposed by the natives. Thus, on 14 April 1827, the Hellenic General Assembly in Trizina elected Ioannis Kapodistrias, minister of Foreign Eastern Affairs of the Char Alexander I at the time. Kapodistrias before arriving at Greece visited various places in Europe to meet members of Philhellenism movement and among them the Swiss banker John-Gabriel Eynard, who became invaluable supporter of his country (Trelawny, 1858).

Arriving at Greece, Kapodistrias found the country in a situation of anarchy. He quickly improved the situation of the country, causing, however, strong and ruthless opposition. So he rushed to the organization of the State according to the Western way of life. His tireless and versatile diligence caused the admiration of the others. Unfortunately, due to the sudden leap in transplanting institutions from abroad, namely the West, with simultaneous ignorance on the internal traditions of the community he failed in his attempt for agricultural reforms and caused criticism to his policy.

Despite the mentality of locals to adopt Western ideas, as far as the agricultural reform is concerned, Kapodistrias put emphasis on strengthening of agriculture, the basic pylon of Greek economy. Poverty, anarchy and lack of means of production, as well as of high yielding animals, were characteristic of that era in Greece. He believed in possibilities of development for plant and animal production, which constitute the main means for the country to rely on its own resources. For the better coordination of his agricultural policy, he established in Tyrintha of Peloponnese a State-owned farm with a model of Agricultural School. However, the measures he undertook could not have substantial results, since the landless peasants had not acquired their own land. Finally, his opponents managed to assassinate him on 27 September 1831 at the town of Nauplia (Woodhouse, 1973).

Before he died, Kapodistrias had called a distinguished Greek agriculturist from France. His name was Gregorios Palaiologos and he appointed him as director of the Agricultural School at Tyrintha 1830. This man offered great services to the affair of Greek agriculture. However, after Kapodistrias' assassination, Palaiologos became a victim of political parties' passions and of the phenomenon of position-seekers, which had emerged from the very first years after the War of Independence. Thus, Palaiologos soon after, driven to despair, left his position and the country. But also, all his successors had the same destiny, so that the Agricultural School at Tyrintha came to a definite close in 1872.

Another agricultural issue one would consider during this period was the raisin or currant crises which was accompanied by the country's bankruptcy and defeat by the Turks in 1897. The average size of Greek holdings was small and to that size suited the cultivation of raisins. In this respect, the vineyards of North and Western Peloponnese were thriving and their product was exported to the market of Great Britain. As a matter of fact, after the appearance of extremely harmful insect *Phylloxera (Phylloxera vastatrix or vitifolia)* in 1878 in French vineyards, the demand of Greek raisins for export increased considerably. But when the French vineyards recovered after control of *Phylloxera*, the demand for Greek raisins dropped dramatically and the relevant producers were bankrupted, while unemployment prevailed. Then, Greece could not borrow money from abroad and eventually was bankrupted in 1897. The same period a small group of young officers wanted to expand Greece's borders at the time. This alarmed the Turks and Greece as not prepared enough for a war was eventually defeated.

During that period, some achievements took place in the agricultural sector, such as the Parliamentary voting of the Law No 602 for the establishment of central and peripheral unions of Agricultural Cooperatives in 1914 and the establishment of Ministry of Agriculture in 1917, where dominant role had played the distinguished agriculturist Spyridon Chasiotis. The establishment of Agricultural bank took place in 1929 with main actor the agriculturist Socrates Iasemides. Great scientists emerged that era like Panagiotis Gennadios in plant production and Raylond Dimitriades in animal production. The latter, more than one hundred years ago, expressed ideas on animal physiology and metabolism which take precedence over some of the innovative ones of today (Zoiopoulos & Drosinos, 2010). It should be stated also that during this period two schools —no university level though— one was the Averofian Agricultural School in Larissa and the other the American Farm School started operating in Thessaloniki (Marder, 1979).

However, the questions still pending during the period up to the end of WWI were, on the one hand the struggle of landless peasants for settlement, a promise given by the state to veterans of the War of Independence from Ottoman Empire —and on the other, the Parliamentary Law for the expropriation of big private estates (*tsifliks*) (Evelpides, 1933a). Governments at the time tried to care about peasants since the agricultural political parties had a big number of supporters (Hobsbawm, 1973), so that one could call 20th century as the century of peasant wars (Dakin, 1972; Wolf, 1999). This Law eventually was issued but was ineffective until 1922 when the Greek catastrophe in Minor Asia took place (Alivizatos, 1932; Kane & Mann, 1993).

### ***The Interwar period (1919–1939).***

1920 was a milestone year for agriculture in Greece since the first University level institution was established in Athens, the so-called Superior Agricultural School of Athens. This was the result of the efforts mainly of the eminent agriculturist Spyridon Chasiotis, who, as it was mentioned above, he was also the man by whom the

establishment of the Ministry of Agriculture was achieved in 1917. Chasiotis was appointed professor and first director of the Superior School.

However, in year 1920, something unexpected happened in the political life of Greece. In brief, the greatest Greek politician of the 20th century, the Cretan Liberal Eleftherios Venizelos, was forced to declare elections in 1920 although he could delay it for a while. Venizelos, contrary to the king of Greece Konstantinos I, foresaw the eventual victory of the Anglo-French alliance, the so-called Entente, against the Germans in WWI and supported Entente, while the king who had married Kaizer's sister Sophia, he wanted Greece to remain neutral. Then a schism was created between the government and the palace. Eventually, King Konstantinos was overthrown by Entente and succeeded by his son Alexander. After the victorious outcome of the war for Entente, the latter granted to Greece, through Venizelos, the city of Smyrna and the surrounding area in Minor Asia.

However, Venizelos' opposition forced him to hold elections on the ground that Greek soldiers who fought continuously for eight years since 1912 in Balcan Wars and later in WWI, should be tired, thus they had to stop war and come back to their homes. Greek people liked this idea and voted against Venizelos who lost the election, but after the victorious election the Conservatives went back on their word and instead of stopping the War they ordered the army to go far in the interior of Turkey, without being able to assist with arms and food supplies the extremely long frontier. Then a gifted leader emerged for Turkey, namely Kemal Ataturk and Turks won the War so that 1.3 million Greek refugees were forced to leave their home places. These people were helped by Greek ships to cross the Aegean Sea and escape to the Greek mainland.

When one refers to Greece of 1922, he/she talks about a country which was coming out of catastrophe in Minor Asia. This poor country of 5.5 million people, with dominant problem that of lack of wheat, had to nourish 1.3 million of ragged refugees who had to share the little cultivated land with the natives, who were producing mainly for self-maintenance. In addition, the landless ones as tenant farmers (crofters) were still waiting for settlement in the framework of agrarian reforms, which took place in 1917, when Law No 1072 had been voted in the Parliament. This Law which constituted the most daring piece of legislation produced in Modern Greece, it had not been applied until the catastrophe in Minor Asia. One could not imagine worse combination of adverse conditions for Greece other than those of 1922 (Eddy, 1931; Mazower, 1987, 1991; Seferiadis, 1999).

There were two kinds of settlements for refugees. The urban one round the two big cities of Greece namely Athens in the south (Kritikos, 2000) and Thessaloniki in the north, as well as the agricultural one mainly in the north districts i.e. Macedonia and Thrace. Venizelos favoured the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey, since, in this sense, State lands would be set free, mainly in Macedonia and Thrace, where they could host the eradicated Greek refugees from Minor Asia. Thoughts on the exchange of populations have been published by Pentzopoulos (1962), Kritikos (2001), Petropoulos (1976) and Ladas (1931). The agricultural settlement of refugees which is an issue of political and sociological nature, was assigned by the

State to agriculturists, although the latter had not heard anything about colonization in their studies.

For the agricultural settlement of refugees at Macedonia and Thrace, as leader was appointed by the State the eminent agriculturist Ioannis Stav. Karamanos (Morgenthau, 1929). It should be stated at this point that the struggle of peasants for reforms in Greece, which started early in the 20th century, continued also during the Interwar period. For the issue of refugees' settlement Howland (1926) and Evelpidis (1926) have reported in extent. The agricultural colonization of refugees appears to be more difficult than the urban one, since, in addition, land should have been secured for them. Furthermore, it should be stressed that the settlement of refugees in Greece, together with that of the landless native peasants was effected without any bloodshed, whereas the agricultural reform in Spain during the Interwar period, lead to a bloody Civil War conflict, between the Democrats then in power and the forces of Dictator Franco who eventually prevailed (Malefakis, 1970).

The CSR (Commission for the Settlement of Refugees) was set up by the Society of Nations (the nowadays Organization of the United Nations). First President of the CSR was Henry Morgenthau. This man was succeeded by Charles Howland in 1924 and Charles Eddy in 1926. Henry Morgenthau described the Greek Director General of CSR Ioannis Karamanos as «He was a flashing figure like that of the Homer's hero Achilles, born leader» (Morgenthau, 1929). For the issue of refugees settlement in Greece wrote, among others, Kontogeorgi (1976).

Let us now proceed to the next big question for Greek Agriculture in the Interwar period, namely the efforts for achieving wheat self-sufficiency for the country. Greece compared to the major wheat granaries of the world i.e. Ukraine in Europe and Canada in the Americas, was characterized by the lack of wheat production. Greece being a mountainous country, with Mediterranean climate and few rainfalls, could not nourish large population. Lack of wheat refers to bread production for humans. For animal sector other cereals were grown like barley, oats, rye, whereas sheep and goats were kept in a nomadic way utilizing mountainous grass lands. The lack of wheat was the most crucial question to be answered in Greek agricultural history. Even if it seems oxymoron, starting point for a brave uplift for Greece in this sector, namely wheat self-sufficiency, was the most tragic year in its Modern history i.e. 1922 and this issue was developed just above in the present paper. It was in this tragic scene where, as an expression of a contradiction which characterizes the Hellenic race, the great agricultural epic of the Interwar period was born. Here another paradox happened. The man who took the solution of the most difficult problem of Greece, i.e. wheat self-sufficiency upon his shoulders, was a 20 year old agriculturist, just having graduated from Belgium. His name Ioannis Papadakis.

The author of the present study has published an extensive article in this journal the last couple of years about the Greek scientist Ioannis Papadakis (1903–1997) as being one of the greatest national and ecumenical agriculturists of the 20th century (Zoiopoulos, 2024). In brief, Papadakis studied agriculture in Gembloux near Liege, Belgium and did post-graduate studies in plant propagation in Paris. Returned to

Greece in 1923 as a lecturer of agronomy in the newly established Agricultural University of Athens. There, Professor Spyridon Chasiotis directed him to deal with tackling the problem of wheat self-sufficiency. They appointed him at a new institution in the granary of Greece namely Larissa, and after that Ioannis Karamanos, Director General of CSR, called him to Thessaloniki in the North of Greece, where he built an Institution for Plant Improvement, so that Papadakis worked in the framework of CSR.

Blaxter (1976) spoke about “the art and science of agriculture”. Ioannis Papadakis was a versatile genius. He was highly qualified in Mathematics, Statistics as Biometry in particular, Soil Science (Papadakis, 1941a; 1941b), while he wrote the eleven large size pages entry «Soils» in Encyclopedia Britannica (Papadakis, 1998). In addition, Ioannis Papadakis dealt with ecological issues (Papadakis, 1964), but also with social, political and economic subjects. Furthermore, Papadakis devoted himself to the supply of Greece with fertilizers, something which was enhanced with the visit of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) mission to Greece (Anonymous, 1947). Papadakis with his efforts on agronomy research managed to increase Greece’s yearly wheat production by three times in fifteen years from 1923 to 1938, but wheat self-sufficiency for the country was achieved only by 1957 after the propagation for the use of chemical fertilizers. The rational use of fertilizers is important for a country (Arapostathis, 2017).

Although there was some criticism for the application of single wheat cultivation in Greece, i.e. Ploumidis (2024), who argued whether emphasis should be given to single wheat cultivation by neglecting other crops like forages, nevertheless the need for reaching wheat sustainability in a country is well documented (Korpetis et al, 2023; Tsompanoglou, 2024; Xynias et al, 2020). Jonathan Swift in his book «Gulliver’s Travels» quotes: «Whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before would deserve better of mankind...». At this point, it should be noted that Papadakis had published a book in French titled «Ecologie Agricole» (Papadakis, 1938), and when Argentina called him to organize the ecological map of the country in 1947 he emigrated to that country permanently, since some rivals researchers in Greece accused him unfairly of being a Leftist.

During the Interwar period, further important agricultural feats were achieved in Greece. Firstly, land reclamation works were started, whereby poor lands were converted to irrigated ones and secondly extensive works were effected on land draining to improve land fertility. The same period, a second Agricultural University was established in 1927 in the north as department of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and a number of research institutions were built and started operating throughout the country. One should not forget to refer to the Balcan conferences which took place during the Interwar period around the year 1930, to improve friendship and commercial cooperation between Balkan countries, during this difficult period (Evelpides, 1930; Papanastasiou, 1932).

In the political scene, Greece stopped operating as a kingdom and from 1924 the State’s regime was turned to be a Republic. But this did not last for long (Mavrogordatos, 1983), since from 1935, after a referendum, King George II was

called back to reign. During the period of the Republic, and following the economic Crash of 1929 in the States which influenced the international economic situation and the trade of agricultural commodities, Greece pursued the policy of autarky. However, this lead to autarchy rather imposed by dictator General Ioannis Metaxas in August 1936, which lasted until the invasion of Germans to Greece in April 1941 (Cliadakis, 1979; Mazower, 1987, 1991; Sarandis, 1979; Veremis, 1976; Waterlow, 1947).

During the Metaxas' junta in 1937 an event took place which affected adversely higher agricultural education in Greece. Actually, Babis Alivizatos submitted his candidature for a professorship in the Superior School of Agriculture in Athens. He was a man of high scientific caliber, warm-hearted supporter of the agricultural reforms in Greece in favour for the settlement of the landless peasants (Alivizatos, 1932). Unfortunately, Alivizatos earlier had expressed the view that the central School of Agriculture should be moved outside of the capital, to the countryside and he paid dearly for that, since the electorate punished him and voted against his election at the university chair. However, Alivizatos was a fellow-townsmen of dictator Metaxas, i.e. from the island of Cephalonia in the Ionian Sea. Then, the dictator ordered the closure of the School of Agriculture in Athens and the latter was transferred to Thessaloniki. The School returned to Athens in 1943 during German Occupation, when a member of the quisling Government of the collaborators G. Pamboukas was elected professor at the School and this man cared so that the closed institution returns to Athens.

### ***The Bitter Decade 1940–1950.***

One could divide that period in five parts: 1) the epic of the defending war of Greece in Albania 2) the German Occupation of Greece 3) the Resistance of the natives 4) the Liberation of the country from the Germans and 5) the bloody Civil War. Woodhouse (1981) refers to that period but only from a political point of view. Little has been written about agricultural events. After Greece's army had beaten Mussolini's troops as part of the Axis in the soil of Albania from 28th October 1940 and for six months, eventually Greek Army was defeated by German invaders and Greece was occupied from 21st April 1941 for almost four years. The main problem for Greece during Occupation from Germans was to tackle the harsh famine by providing food to the people.

For German Occupation of Greece and Resistance, as well as the Civil War, Woodhouse (1947, 1976, 1981) has written in extent. It should be underlined that the first winter of the German Occupation was extremely cold and the situation was made much worse due to the lack of food, since the first 15000 tones of food from the Red Cross came from abroad via Turkey in the mid of 1942. At that year, deaths from starvation and famine, mainly for children in urban parts of the country, were the highest, through the period of Occupation, while «black market», inflation and violence prevailed (Kazamias, 1992). During German Occupation, in the framework of Greek Resistance, the organization NLF (National Liberation Front) started operating by both rights (Conservatives) and leftists (Communists). However, these people at the end of the Occupation period appeared to be divided. At the beginning of the Liberation period

elections were held in Greece, but the leftists did not participate and chose a guerilla Civil War instead, with bloodshed for both sides (Iatrides & Wringley, 1995; Mathews, 1972; Tsoucalas, 1969; Vlavianos, 1989; Woodhouse, 1947). In 1947 Truman Doctrine, and in a few weeks, the Marshall plan were announced. These were aiming at the financial support, among other Western countries of Greece, with a view to limiting the expanding of Communism from neighbouring countries (Alexander, 1982; Delivanis, 1967; Mazower, 2000; McNeill, 1978; Shaw, 1969; Warren, 1978; Xydis, 1967).

After the German Occupation an unexpected phenomenon took place in Greece. As a matter of fact, during the Greek civil war which followed the German Occupation, various position-seekers belonging to the right-wing who prevailed at the time, accused some rival scientists of being leftists, but this was unfair. It was mentioned earlier that one who suffered from this, was Ioannis Papadakis, who emigrated to Argentina for long. Another was Demetrius Kavadas who was the founder of science of Phytopathology in Greece and taught also Botany. After the WWII he was fired from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki forever. Following that, Kavadas wrote the colossal nine volume Botanical Dictionary. But the most distinct case was that of Professor Nikolaos Roussopoulos. The latter was fired from the Agricultural University chair at Athens in 1945 for five years. He was teaching the fundamental subject of agricultural chemistry. After coming back, he was elected twice as rector of the University and eventually Member of Athens Academy. N. Roussopoulos during the Greek Civil War wrote the book «Introduction to the Laws of Plant Yields», whereby, forgetting the so far generalized descriptive nature of agricultural education, he moved towards a quantitative approach, by introducing mathematics in the education of agricultural subjects.

### ***From 1950 up Till Now.***

There are plenty of activities which constitute what one would call agriculture, as regards plant but also animal production. In Greece, the main cultivated crop is olive tree. Together with two other countries round the Mediterranean basin i.e. Spain and Italy, these are the biggest olive oil producing countries in the world. Cotton also is an important crop in Greece (Christides & Harrison, 1951). Actually, Greece was the only cotton producing Member State when entered into the EEC (European Economic Community) in 1981. As far as animal production is concerned the most important branch, practiced in Greece, is sheep and goats production, kept in a rather extensive way (Volanis et al, 2007). Following quite a long period of democracy in Greece, a new junta by the so-called army Colonels was imposed in 1967, which after seven years of governing, led to another catastrophe of the Hellenism in Cyprus in 1974. The only case an agricultural activity was improved during dictatorship was pig production. Pig production in Greece (Zoiopoulos, 1986) is connected to a special dish, namely «souvlaki», whose consumption is associated with the development of tourism. Greece at the time was much far from being self sufficient in pork. The government then financed and subsidized generously this sector and eventually Greece reached self-

sufficiency in pork. It should be mentioned that, from end of '50s, a new dynamic sector, that of aquaculture (fish farming), started being developed in Greece.

After the fall of junta in 1974, Greece living under a democratic regime and based on the vision and efforts of the elected Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis on 1st January 1981 joined the EEC as its 10th Member State. Then Greece started participating in various Community research projects, particularly in the more critical area, that of animal production (Henry, Vogt, & Zoiopoulos, 1988). The various agricultural matters within the EEC (now EU (European Union) have been always governed by the Community Legislation and, in this respect, Greece did not constitute an exception (Katogianni et al., 2008).

During its stay in the EU, Greece had to face and control certain food crises, like the one on dioxins (Natskoulis & Zoiopoulos, 2014). It should be mentioned that the impact of such crises, like the one with dioxins, which resulted to the drop of Jean-Luke Dean's government in Brussels, is terrible. In tackling food crises, Member States had to apply new techniques in the area of food control such as HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) (Miliotis et al, 2013). Furthermore, another delicate subject concerning the safety of the consumer was that of GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms), particularly in the area of animal feeds, where maize, the top cereal, and soya bean, the top plant protein in the world, are involved (Zoiopoulos, 1998; Zoiopoulos & Natskoulis, 2013). Eventually, new forms of a cleaner agriculture, namely organic, free from the use of chemicals, were proposed and legislated upon by the Community (Zoiopoulos and Hadjigeorgiou, 2013; Zoiopoulos & Natskoulis, 2025).

### **Conclusions.**

Plethora of events took place in the sector of Agriculture in Greece, since the War of Independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1821 till now. However, one should distinguish two outstanding feats, which were achieved during the Interwar period. First, the agricultural settlement of landless peasants, together with that of hundred thousand of Greek refugees coming to mainland after the catastrophic war of Greece in Minor Asia, and second the successful tackling of the greatest problem of the Hellenic race, that of wheat self-sufficiency. The present article concludes with some beneficial effects derived from the rational practicing of agriculture, after Greece's entering into the EEC in 1981.

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### **Conflict of Interest.**

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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## Пантеліс Зоїопулос

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### Еволюція сільського господарства Греції у міжвоєнний період: історичний підхід

**Анотація.** У статті розглядаються основні події, що визначали розвиток сільського господарства Греції в міжвоєнний період, із особливою увагою до аграріїв – головних виконавців, яким держава доручила реалізацію своєї політики і які несли основний тягар її втілення. Водночас на початку подано короткий огляд розвитку грецького сільського господарства у XIX столітті після війни за незалежність Греції від Османської імперії 1821 року з метою окреслення проблематики та характеристики середовища, в якому відбувалися подальші події. Серед них – боротьба безземельних селян за отримання землі (обіцянка, надана державою ветеранам війни за незалежність), прийняття парламентського закону про експропріацію великих маєтків, а також зусилля щодо аграрного розселення місцевих селян. Щодо міжвоєнного періоду, перед державою постали два масштабні завдання. По-перше, завершення аграрного розселення безземельних селян, а також розселення 1,3 млн грецьких біженців,

які прибули на материкову частину країни після катастрофічної поразки Греції у війні з Туреччиною в Малій Азії у 1922 році. По-друге, успішне вирішення найбільшої проблеми в історії грецького сільського господарства – досягнення самозабезпечення пшеницею, зростання її виробництва та захист виробників пшениці, які інакше могли б стати жертвами лихварів. Крім того, у міжвоєнний період були закладені важливі основи розвитку грецького сільського господарства, зокрема створення Міністерства сільського господарства, заснування Сільськогосподарського банку, відкриття Сільськогосподарського університету в Афінах, прийняття закону про кооперації, масштабні роботи з меліорації земель і впровадження сучасної сільськогосподарської техніки. Також подано короткий огляд розвитку грецького сільського господарства після 1940 року, включаючи боротьбу з голодом серед місцевого населення під час німецької окупації шляхом забезпечення продовольством, рух Опору, громадянську війну, Доктрину Трумена, План Маршалла, місію Продовольчої та Сільськогосподарської Організації ООН у Греції та відбудову країни, аж до вступу Греції як повноправного члена до Європейського Економічного Співтовариства 1 січня 1981 року.

**Ключові слова:** Греція; аграрне розселення біженців; самозабезпечення пшеницею; меліорація земель

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