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SOME REGIONAL SPECIFICITIES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN SERBIA: OLD DISTRICTS AND LIBERATED AREAS IN LIGHT OF STATISTICAL DATA (1878–1912)

Abstract: A large territory in the southeast, liberated in the 1876–1878 wars, was annexed to the Principality of Serbia in 1878. This paper aims to point out the specificities of agricultural production in the liberated areas, as well as the degree in which they resulted from a longer life in the Ottoman Empire and from the regional characteristics stemming from natural conditions. To this end, a comparison is made between the old and new areas, as well as across specific regions within these two territorial units.

Keywords: Serbia, agriculture, 19th century, land cultivation, livestock farming, wars of 1876–1878, statistics.

Introduction

In the collective conscious of the Serbian people, the 19th century represents both a century of the struggle for liberation and a period in which modern state institutions, political life and economic system were built in the semi-autonomous and autonomous Serbian state. Abolishing the feudal system and the autonomy of market relations within the state and in international trade contributed to the emergence of a specific economic environment based on household plot agriculture. The traditional agricultural methods notwithstanding, Serbia had a significant surplus in various agricultural products up until the start of the First World War. Until the mid-19th the surplus consisted mostly of pigs and subsequently crops as well. Sold in a number of European states, these products found their buyers primarily in the

neighbouring Austro-Hungarian market. A sharp rise in the population numbers in the second half of the 19th century led to a decrease in areas suitable for the traditional extensive livestock production and an expansion of land cultivation, especially the growing of crops – a dietary staple of the population.

As independence was gained, this system under construction faced a new challenge – the incorporation of the liberated and annexed areas in the south.

The present paper aims to point out the specificities of agricultural production in the liberated areas, as well as the degree in which they resulted from a longer life in the Ottoman Empire and from the regional characteristics stemming from natural conditions. To this end, a comparison is made between the old and new areas, as well as across specific regions within these two territorial units. The results are presented using illustrations – charts and maps. The discussion focuses on presenting the results obtained by comparing the production in specific types of agricultural activity. All changes that took place up until the start of the new wars of liberation are pointed out as well. The wider issues relating to the intervention of the state and some civil society segments in the liberated areas, aimed at improving the agriculture, are outlined briefly as emphasis is placed on the analysis of statistical data.

A number of statistics relating to the state of agriculture in the Principality of Serbia are available from the publications issued by the efficient state statistical office. Its operation started in 1862, when Prince Mihailo Obrenović introduced mandatory maintenance and coordination by the Ministry of Finance's Economics Department of statistical records for all branches of the state administration. Two years later, a separate Office of Statistics was established.¹

Statistical data had been collected since the constitution of the semi-autonomous principality of Serbia, primarily for taxation purposes. In 1824, a livestock census started as well. In 1834, regular five-year population censuses started and in 1843 the collection and analysis of the data on foreign and internal trade, prices and wages.²

The results of statistical analyses were presented in the Office of Statistics' publications – *Državopis Srbije* (Serbian State Report) and *Statistički godišnjak Kraljevine Srbije* (The Statistical Yearbook of the Kingdom of Serbia).³ Regular cattle

¹ 140 година званичне статистике, 8. Available at: <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2002/Pdf/G20026002.pdf> (accessed 24 March 2014).

² *Ibidem*, 8–9.

³ *Државописъ Србије*, I, Београд 1855; *Државописъ Србије*, II, Београд 1863; *Државописъ Србије*, III, Београд 1869; *Државописъ Србије*, IV, Београд 1870; *Државописъ Србије*, V, Београд 1871; *Државописъ Србије*, VI, Београд 1872; *Државописъ Србије*, VII, Београд 1873; *Државописъ Србије*, VIII, Београд 1874; *Државопис Србије*, IX, Београд 1879; *Државопис Србије*, X, Београд 1880; *Државопис Србије*, XI, Београд 1882; *Државопис Србије*, XII, Београд 1883; *Државопис Србије*, XIII, Београд 1884; *Државопис Србије*, XIV, Београд 1889; *Државопис Србије*, XV, Београд 1889; *Државопис Србије*, XVI, Београд 1889; *Државопис Србије*, XVII, Београд 1893; *Државопис Србије*, XVIII, Београд 1890; *Државопис Србије*, XIX, Београд 1892; *Државопис Србије*, XX, Београд 1894; *Статистички*

and arable land censuses were published separately in the edition *Statistika Kraljevine Srbije* (The Statistics of the Kingdom of Serbia).⁴

The population and natural conditions for agricultural production in the new areas

Upon liberation, the Office of Statistics conducted a population census in the liberated territories and the results were published in 1882. The liberated territory had a surface area of slightly over 10,000 km² and 299,640 inhabitants. It had four administrative districts – the Districts of Niš, Pirot, Vranje and Toplica.⁵

годишњак Краљевине Србије, 1–12, Београд 1893–1913; 140 година званичне статистике, 14–20.

⁴ *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1890. године, Статистика Краљевине Србије, књ. 2, Београд 1893; Попис обрађене земље 1889. године, Статистика Краљевине Србије, књ. 3, Београд 1894; Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године, Статистика Краљевине Србије, књ. 9, Београд 1897; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године, Статистика Краљевине Србије, књ. 11, Београд 1898; Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1897. године, Статистика Краљевине Србије, књ. 16, Београд 1897; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1900 годину, Статистика Краљевине Србије, том 18, Београд 1903; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1900. године, Статистика Краљевине Србије, књ. 22, Београд 1903; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1901 годину, Статистика Краљевине Србије, том 25, Београд 1904; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1902 годину, Статистика Краљевине Србије, том 27, Београд 1906; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1903 годину, Статистика Краљевине Србије, том 29, Београд 1907; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1904 годину, Статистика Краљевине Србије, том 31, Београд 1913; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1905. године, Статистика Краљевине Србије, књ. 32, Београд 1913.*

The following were published independently of this edition: *Статистика виноградарства у Краљевини Србији за 1889. годину, Београд 1892; Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1900. године, Београд 1901; Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1905. године, Београд 1906; Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године, Београд 1911.*

⁵ The territory later referred to as the “new areas” is a single area in the southeast of Serbia. In addition to this territory, smaller areas in other border zones were also annexed. The population of the entire annexed territory stood at the total of 303,097. *Државопис Србије, XI, 1–58.*

Map 1: Serbia before and after the liberation wars of 1876–78



The annexed areas were sparsely populated. According to the first census, conducted between 22 February and 22 March 1879, the average population density of the annexed areas stood at 29 people per square kilometre and in 1874 it was 36 in the old districts.⁶

The economy of the new areas was considerably affected by the small number of inhabitants and the life in the periphery of the Ottoman Empire. A steady demographic rise in the old districts started after the Second Serbian Uprising. With 678,192 inhabitants in 1834, the Principality of Serbia would see its population numbers double (1,353,890) by 1874. By the start of the Balkan Wars, the population in the entire territory of Serbia increased significantly. Between 1884 and 1910, the number of inhabitants rose from 1,901,736 to 2,911,701.⁷

The rise in the population numbers resulted in an expansion of arable land and the development of the production of grains as the dietary staple of the population. This trend was noticeable in the new areas as well. For instance, a decade after the

⁶ According to the statistical yearbooks, after a survey had been completed by the Serbian Army Headquarters, the population density stood at 35.8 in 1874, while the publication *Два века развоја Србије: статистички преглед*, Београд 2008, lists 31. Cf: *Статистички годишњак 4*, Београд 1900, 3, 26 and *Два века развоја Србије: статистички преглед*, 42; the population density for the new areas was calculated based on the data on the surface area of Serbia from the cited edition of the Statistical Yearbook and the data on the population numbers from *Државопис Србије*, IX, 55.

⁷ *Два века развоја Србије*, 42, 47.

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liberation, the percentage of agricultural land (i.e. land under cultivated crops, meadows and pastures) was only 15 percent. By the end of the century these areas doubled, standing at as much as 30 percent. The rest of the country saw an increase in agricultural land of only 5 percent in the same period (see *Chart 1* and *Chart 2*).

Chart 1: *The ratio of agricultural land to other types of land in the old districts and new areas in 1889⁸*

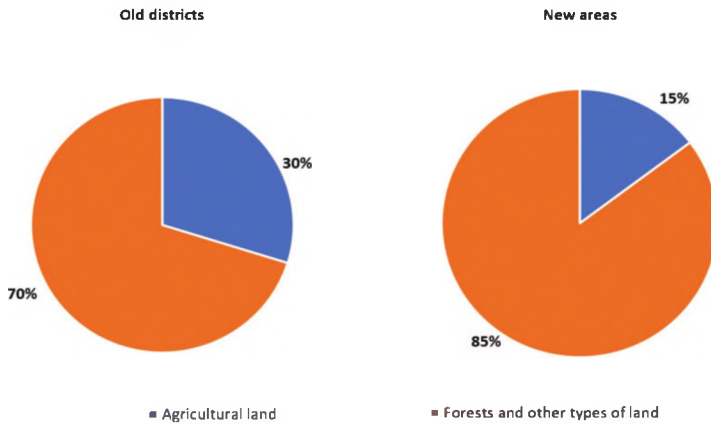
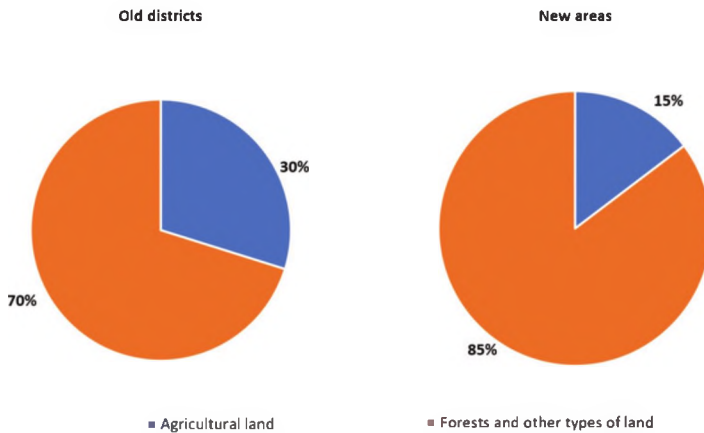


Chart 2: *The ratio of agricultural land to other types of land in the old districts and new areas in 1905⁹*



⁸ The chart is based on the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1889. године*, Статистика Краљевине Србије, књ. 3, Београд 1894.

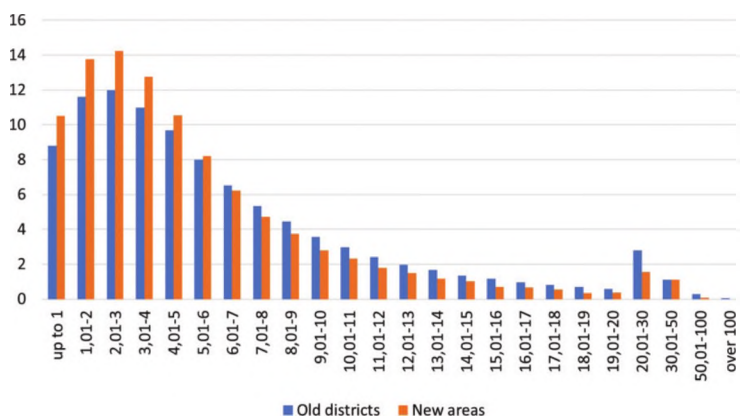
⁹ The chart is based on the following: *Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1900 годину*, III–IV.

Household plots, agricultural land and tools

Extensive, low-productivity animal husbandry and crop cultivation was the economic basis in the liberated areas. Agricultural production was further affected by the issue of land ownership. The indemnification of the former Turkish landowners, stipulated by the Treaty of Berlin, was a great burden for the populace in the new areas. The agrarian relations developed in two phases. In the first phase, the Law on the Arrangement of Agrarian Relations (*Zakon o uređenju agrarnih odnošaja*, 1880) and the Law on Agrarian Loan (*Zakon o agrarnom zajmu*, 1882) were passed, based on which courts and agrarian committees started to resolve individual cases. When it became clear that the farmers did not have the funds to buy off the land, loans were concluded with foreign creditors. Serbia started to use these borrowed funds to pay recompense to those who alleged a title to the land plots, as well as to their legal representatives. In order to insure the state as a creditor, a mortgage was taken out on the land that the state had paid recompense for. As a result, farmers from a number of villages and municipalities became solidary debtors of the state and had to pay the debt within 15 to 25 years at an interest. As the collection of instalments due was becoming increasingly irregular, in 1907 the entire amount of the remaining unpaid debt was written off.¹⁰

As in the old districts, the new areas also had an unfavourable structure of household plots, with the majority of rural homesteads made up of plots less than 5 hectares in size. The smallest plots – those up to 1 hectare in size – made up 10.51 percent of all plots in the new areas, whereas the remaining territories had 1.7 percent less. A comparison of plots of up to 3 hectares reveals that the new areas had 38.5% of them and the old districts had 32.4 (see *Chart 3*).

Chart 3: Plot size in 1897¹¹



¹⁰ С. Стојичић, *Аграрно питање у новоослобођеним крајевима Србије после српско-турских ратова 1878–1907*, Лесковац 1987, 5–13.

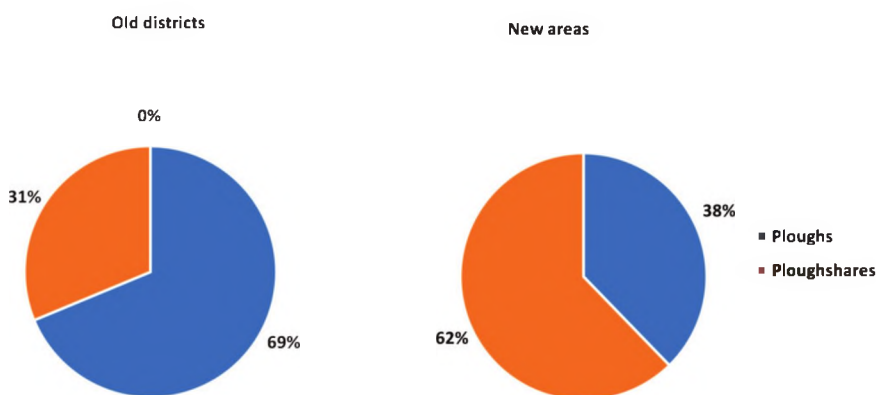
¹¹ The chart is based on the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1897. године*, 4–5.

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In addition to the small and fragmented plots, the fact that the households in the liberated areas did not have enough agricultural tools also significantly lowered the productivity. Ploughshares and wooden ploughs were mostly used in land cultivation, whereas more modern and efficient iron ploughs, imported from abroad or made in Serbia, were used in the old districts (see *Chart 4*).

In addition to ploughs and ploughshares, it was traditional tools and instruments that were mostly used in agricultural works in both territories. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the use of more modern tools and machines was expanding. Produce sorters, hullers, threshers, windmills and sprinklers were first used in rural households in the old, agriculturally developed districts, such as the district of Požarevac or Mačva.¹²

Chart 4: *The ratio of ploughs to ploughshares in the old districts and new areas in 1893*¹³



Land cultivation

Most agricultural land was used to grow grains, which were the dietary staple of the population. Next in prevalence were meadows and pastures, while vegetables, fruit and vineyards took up a significantly smaller portion of the cultivated land. Land sown with industrial crops was negligible in size. In the observed period, only the vineyard areas decreased, while the growing of other agricultural crops expanded.

¹² Г. Гарић Петровић, *Земљорадња у Србији (1878–1912)*, Београд 2017, 51–52.

¹³ The chart is based on the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године*.

Chart 5: Land under agricultural crops in the old districts, presented in hectares, 1889–1903¹⁴

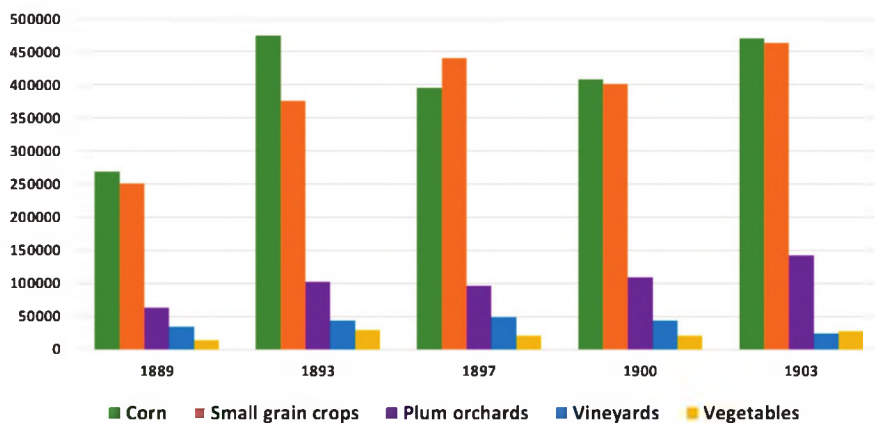
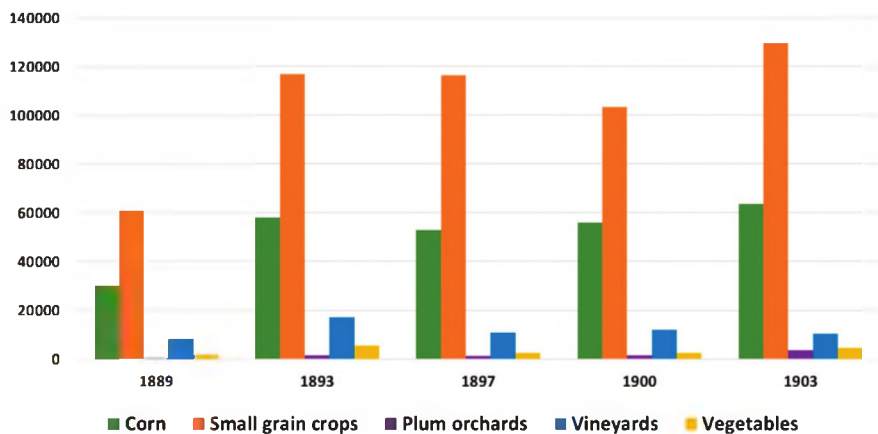


Chart 6: Land under agricultural crops in the new areas, presented in hectares 1889–1903¹⁵



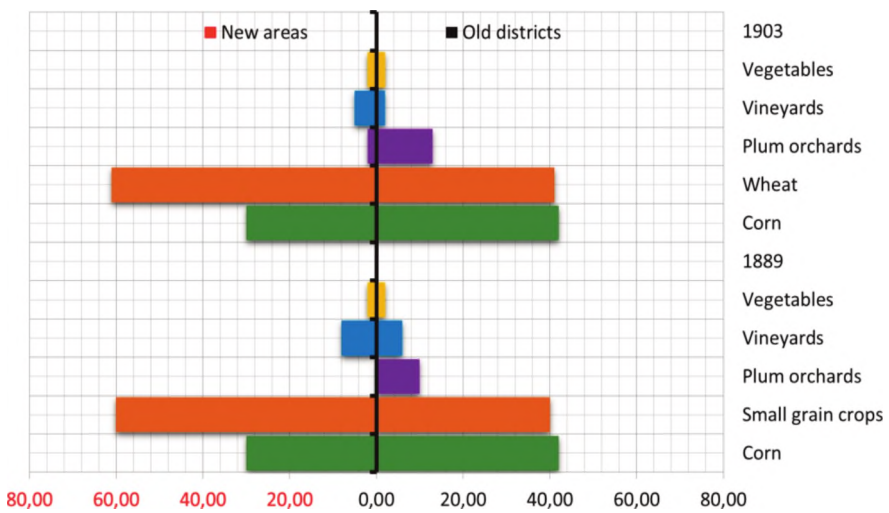
¹⁴ The chart is based on the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1889. године, 1–237; Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године, 181–187; Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1897. године, 350–361; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1900 годину, 4–70; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1903 годину, 4–87.*

¹⁵ The chart is based on the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1889. године, 1–237; Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године, 181–187; Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1897. године, 350–361; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1900 годину, 4–70; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1903 годину, 4–87.*

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Although the land under grains and plum orchards increased in the two areas, the ratio of surface areas under different crops remained almost the same. In the old districts, corn and small grain crops took up almost identical surface areas (a total of around 80 percent of the cultivated land). In the new areas, grains were sown on about 90 percent of the cultivated land. Small grain crops were grown on about 60 percent of the cultivated land there and corn in half that area. During the observed decade and a half, the share of surface areas under plum orchards increased in both territories at the expense of vineyards, which were affected by Phylloxera (see *Chart 7*).

Chart 7: *The ratio of land areas (in percentages) under specific agricultural crop groups in the old districts and new areas in 1889 and 1903*¹⁶



Grains

As discussed above, grains took up most of the cultivated land. They were the most prevalent in the plains and lower-altitude areas, such as the Morava Valley, Mačva, Braničevo, Stig and Krajina. In terms of land sown with different grains, the counties of Mačva, Požarevac, Jasenica, Krajina and Mlava were in the lead. In the new areas, the counties that took the lead were that of Niš, Dobrič and Leskovac, i.e. the regions in the South Morava, Veternica, Jablanica, Pusta Reka, Nišava and Toplica river valleys.¹⁷

¹⁶ The chart is based in the following: *Попис обрађене земље 1889. године*, 1–237; *Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1903 годину*, 4–87.

¹⁷ *Попис обрађене земље 1889. године*, 1–237.

The two most important grains grown in Serbia were corn and wheat. Owing to a wider geographical range and its resistance to inclement weather, it was grown in a significant degree in the old districts in Serbia, with the exception of high mountainous areas where it could not ripen. It was grown successfully in river valleys and on alluvial soil, especially by the Velika Morava river and its tributaries. It was a dietary staple for most of the population and its parts were used to feed livestock as well.¹⁸

The greatest corn producers were the households in the counties around Stig, the Morava Valley and Braničevo. The Mlava county had the largest surface areas under corn – standing at 23,151 hectares in 1893. It was followed by the counties of Požarevac, Jasenica, Krajina and Morava (in the district of Požarevac), with over 20,000 hectares under corn. Among the new areas, the county of Niš stood apart in terms of corn production – at a little over 11,000 hectares.¹⁹

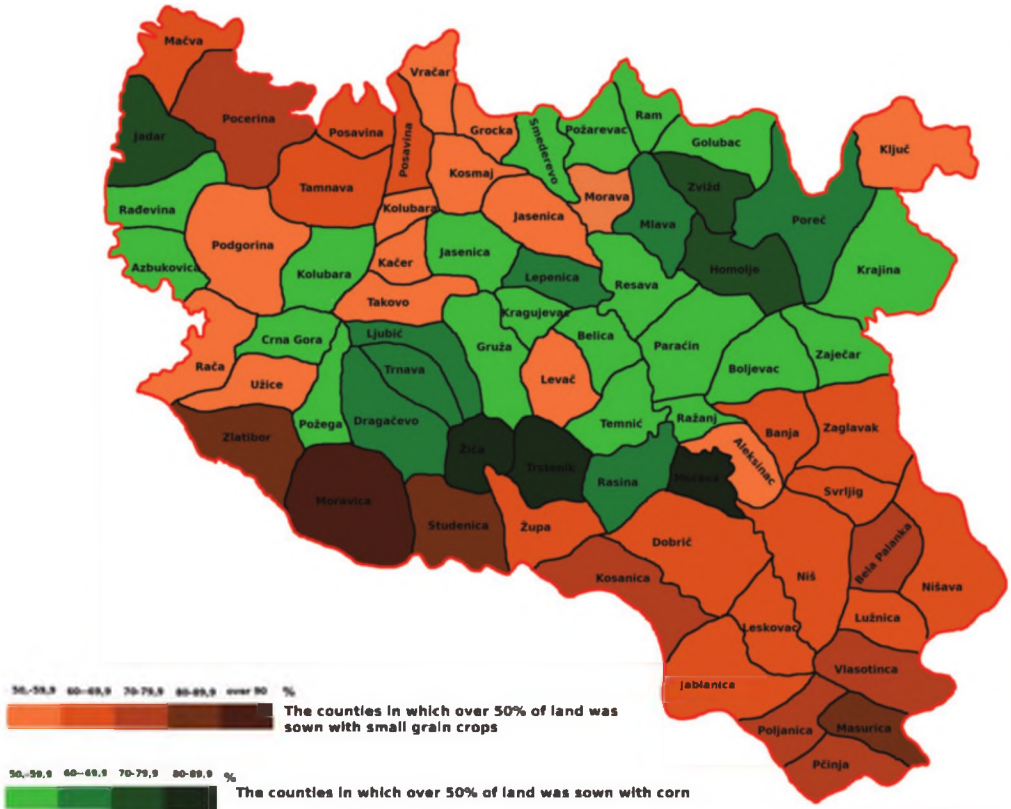
A comparison between the surface areas under various grains reveals that in the old districts corn took up more than a half of the total surface area used to grow grains. Corn took up more than half of the total surface area under grains in the majority of counties (33 of 59 counties) within the pre-1878 borders, whereas the annexed areas did not have a single such county. The counties with the highest percentages of land under corn were in the lower basin of the South Morava (the Morava county in the Kruševac district) and the lowlands by the West Morava (the counties of Trstenik and Žiža). Considerable portions of land under corn could also be found in the counties of Homolje, Zvižd and Jadar (see *Map 2*).

¹⁸ G. Garić Petrović, *Maize cultivation in Serbia: a historical perspective*, *Историјски часопис* 68 (2019), 261–281; eadem, *Земљорадња у Србији*, 100; Б. Миљковић Катић, *Пољопривреда Кнежевине Србије (1834–1867)*, Београд 2014, 120–121.

¹⁹ *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године*, 184.

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Map 2: *The ratio of land under corn to land under small grain crops, according to the census of 1893²⁰*



The second most important grain used for making bread was wheat. Wheat was used in diet as well as for exports. It was grown in the entire country, especially in northern Šumadija and Mačva.²¹ The greatest wheat producers were the counties of Mačva, Pocerina, Jasenica (in the Danube Valley district), Požarevac and Smederevo, each with between 10,000 and 20,000 hectares under wheat.²² In terms of the total surface area under small grain crops, the counties of Vračar and Grocka, situated near

²⁰ The map is based on the data from the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године*, 184–187.

²¹ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Земљорадња у Србији*, 111.

²² *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године*, 184–187.

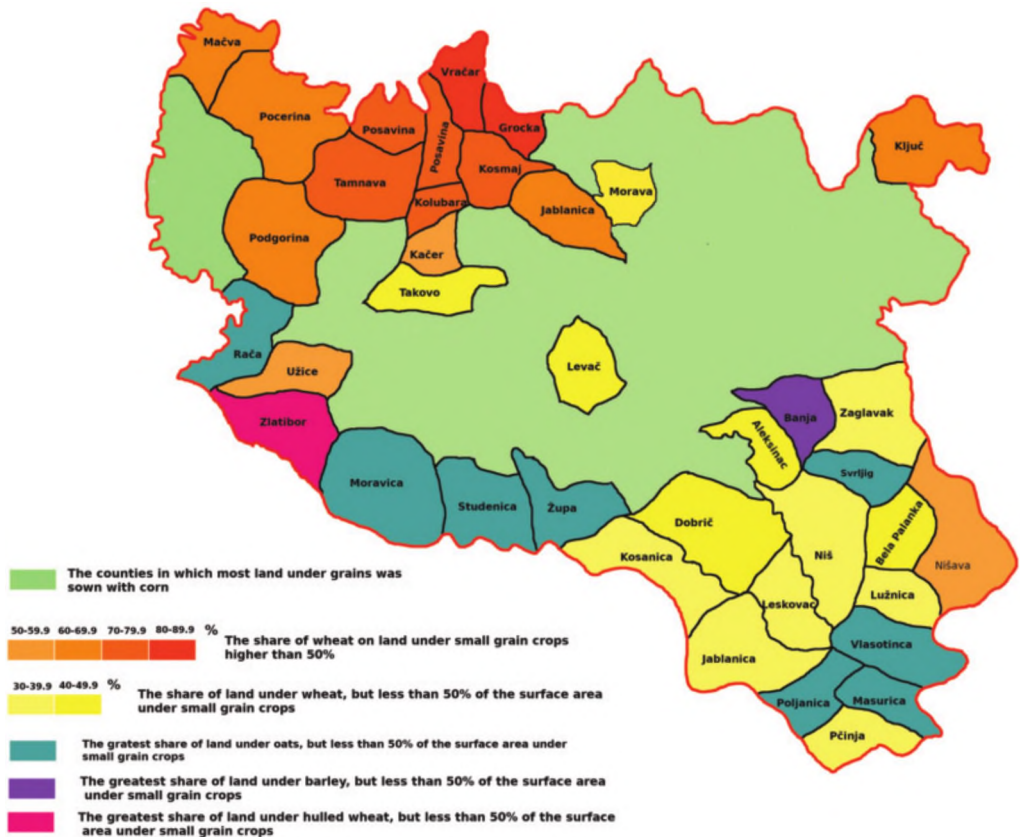
Belgrade, were in the lead with over 80% of their surface areas under wheat. In the counties in the north of Šumadija – Mačva, Pocerina, Podgorina and Krajina – small grain crops were prevalent and wheat was sown on more than half of the cultivated land. Wheat was also the most important grain in Takovo, Levač, Požarevačka Morava, Aleksandrovac Morava Valley and Zaglavak, but it did not take up more than 50% of the cultivated land under small grain crops. In the mountainous areas of Rtanj, Kopaonik, Golija and Zlatibor, more resistant small grain crops were grown, adapted to higher altitudes (see *Map 3*).

In the new areas, unlike the old districts, no district had corn on more than 50% of the cultivated land. Most of this land was taken up by small grain crops. Unlike in the old districts, wheat was the dominant grain in the counties in which small grain crops prevailed, except for the county of Nišava. It was a dominant grain, but with a share of 40 to 49.9 percent, in Dobrič and the Bela Palanka county. In Kosanica, Jablanica, Pčinja, Lužnica, Zaglavak, as well as the counties of Leskovac and Niš, wheat took up between 30 and 39.9 percent of the land under small grain crops. As in the old districts, the mountainous regions in the new areas also had more land under resistant small grain crops – oats, barley and rye, which were sown on more than 40% of cultivated land. As a result, the share of wheat in the total area under small grain crops was reduced. Oats were dominant in the mountainous regions of Poljanica, Krajište and Vlasina.²³

²³ *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године, 184–187.*

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Map 3: The ratio of land areas under various small grain crops according to the census of 1893²⁴



Oats and barley were grown in all of Serbia. They were used primarily to feed livestock. Part of the produce was exported as well. Barley was grown as a winter and spring crop and large amounts of this grain were used to make malt in local breweries. Oats were the third most important grain in Serbia, after corn and wheat.²⁵

In the late 19th century, the counties of Pocerina, Mačva, Moravica, Vlasotince and Niš saw the highest production of oats. At the same time, oats were sown in percentages higher than the other small grain crops in the mountainous areas. In the old districts, this was the case in the counties of Rača, Moravica, Studenica and Župa; and in the new areas, in Vlasotince, Masurica and Poljanica; barley was the prevalent small grain crop only in the county of Banja (see Map 3).

²⁴ The map is based on the data from the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године*, 184–187.

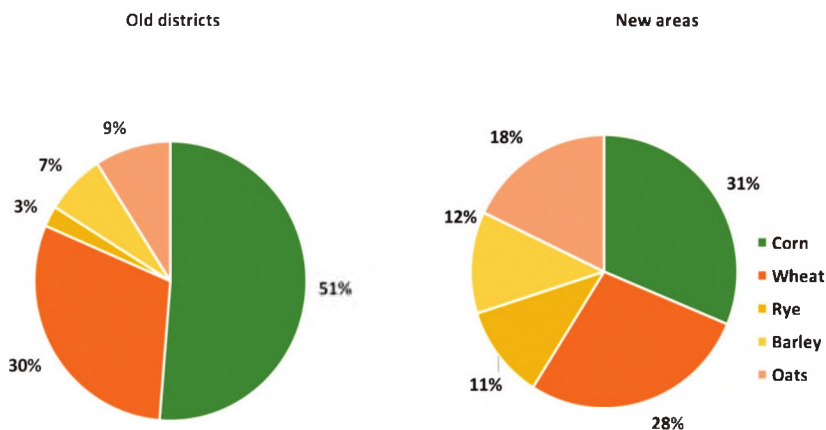
²⁵ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Земљорадња у Србији*, 112–113.

Rye had been grown in a much greater degree in all the regions of Serbia, but it was gradually replaced with wheat. As a dietary staple, it was mixed with wheat or barley. It was grown both as a winter and spring crop. Highest-quality rye was grown in the districts of Pirot, Vranje, Toplica, Timok, Krajina and Požarevac. The climate in Serbia was especially beneficial for it and it was successfully grown and bore fruit in the mountainous terrain.²⁶

In the late 19th century, it took up a little over 10% of the cultivated land in the new areas and only 3% in the old districts. Households in the new areas had the highest production of rye in the new areas; specifically, it was the counties of Niš, Pčinja, Dobrič and Leskovac. Individual counties in the old districts stood out in terms of rye production too: Zaglavak, Studenica and Krajina.²⁷

The old districts' distinctive trait was the production of slightly higher amounts of hulled wheat (common wheat). It was sown in the mountainous areas where corn and wheat could not grow. In sowing, it was often mixed with barley, rye and oats. It was primarily used as fodder, but to a lesser extent than barley, whose nutritional value was higher.²⁸ As a result of its resistance to the conditions found in higher altitudes, this plant was sown in over half of the land under small grain crops in the county of Zlatibor (see *Map 3*), which was also the biggest producer of this grain. In 1893, this district had 2,228 hectares under hulled wheat. Hulled wheat was also grown in the counties of Svrlijig, Zaječar, Krajina, Studenica and Boljevac. Land under this grain was practically negligible in the other areas.²⁹

Chart 8: *The ratio of land areas under the most important grain types in the old districts and new areas in 1897³⁰*



²⁶ *Ibidem*, 112.

²⁷ *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године*, 452–463.

²⁸ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Земљорадња у Србији*, 112.

²⁹ *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године*, 184–187.

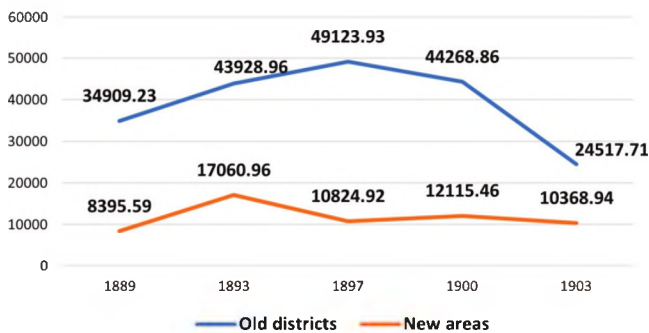
³⁰ The chart was made based on the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1897. године*, 350–361.

Viticulture

The territory of the Kingdom of Serbia was an area extraordinarily well-suited for vine growing. Medieval sources mention vineyards near the modern towns of Vranje, Prokuplje and Paraćin, as well as in the estates belonging to the monasteries of Žiča, Manasija and Ravanica. In the subsequent periods, foreign travel writers noted the vineyards in Negotinska Krajina, the area around Belgrade, Smederevo, Valjevo, Jagodina, Kruševac, Aleksinac, Knjaževac, Niš, Pirot, Prokuplje, Kuršumlija and Novi Pazar. Due to climate changes and lack of certainty, the land under vineyards shrank considerably by the early 19th century. Grape and wine production was limited to meeting own needs only.³¹

In the first three quarters of the 19th century, the land under vineyards increased considerably, as did the rest of cultivated land. In the period between 1834 and 1867 alone, land under vineyards increased one and a half times.³² However, soon after the annexation of the liberated territories, a deadly Phylloxera disease spread throughout Serbia. It was first recorded in 1882 in the Smederevo vineyards. By 1886 it had spread to the area around Belgrade, especially the vineyards in Topčidersko Brdo. Although Phylloxera had not been registered yet in other wine making regions, in the next decade it spread and destroyed vineyards throughout Serbia. The last to take the hit were the vineyards in the south, where certain amounts of wine were still being made in the early 20th century.³³ As a result, only the land under vineyards decreased in the observed period (see *Chart 9* and *Chart 7*).

Chart 9: Land under vineyards, presented in hectares, 1889–1903³⁴



³¹ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Сузбијање филоксере у Краљевни Србији*, Село Балкана. Континуитети и промене кроз историју, Београд–Сирогојно 2017, 223–224.

³² Б. Миљковић Катић, *Пољопривреда Кнежевине Србије*, 161.

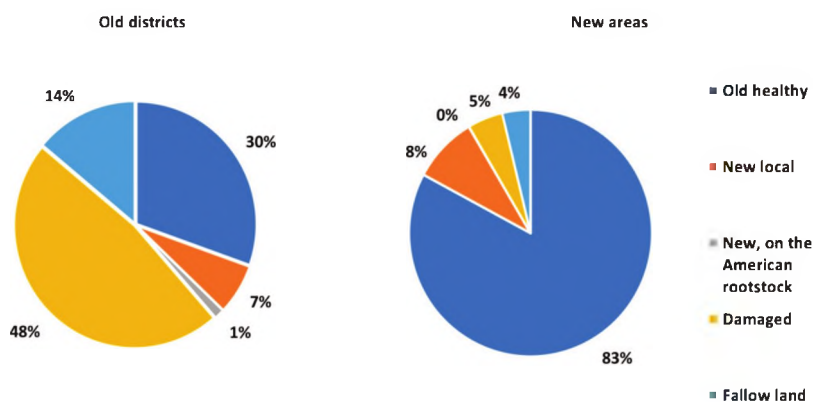
³³ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Сузбијање филоксере*, 227.

³⁴ The chart is based on the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1889. године*, 1–237; *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године*, 181–187; *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1897. године*, 350–361; *Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1900 годину*, 218–283; *Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1903 годину*, 268–343.

This decrease was especially significant in the early 20th century. The land under vineyards shrank by 50 percent in the old districts – from slightly less than 50,000 hectares in 1897 to 24,500 hectares in 1903.³⁵

In its fight against Phylloxera, Serbia followed in the footsteps of other European states and embraced as the most efficient measure the rejuvenation of vineyards using the American vine as a rootstock. Established in 1894, the Vine Seed-Plot in Niš was among the first of its kind.³⁶ Nonetheless, this measure aimed at protecting against Phylloxera was not widely accepted in the early 20th century. In addition to the considerable cost of starting new vineyards with vines grafted on the American rootstock, also impactful was the slower spread of Phylloxera in the south, where 83% of vineyards still had not become infected with it in the late 19th century (see *Chart 10*). The application of the *Law on Suppressing the Phylloxera Disease*, passed in 1884, had a significant effect on slowing down the disease as well.³⁷

Chart 10: *The ratio of land under healthy vineyards to land under damaged vineyards in the old districts and new areas in 1897³⁸*



Fruit farming

In the 19th century, the plum monoculture was prevalent in Serbia.³⁹ Apples, pears, cherries, sour cherries, peaches and nuts were grown in addition to plums, often in semi-wild form. Almost all fruit was used raw or processed in various ways and then

³⁵ *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1897. године*, 350–361; *Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1903 годину*, 268–343.

³⁶ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Сузбијање филоксере*, 232.

³⁷ *Ibidem*, 227.

³⁸ The chart is based on the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1897. године*, 350–361.

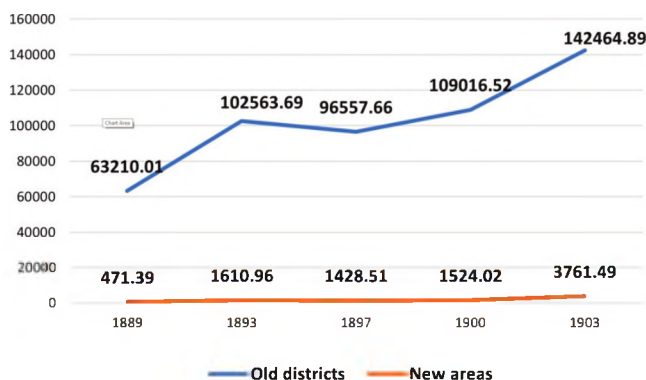
³⁹ Б. Миљковић Катић, *О гајењу и преради шљиве*, Глас САНУ 420 (2012) 213–214.

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consumed. The bulk of plum crops were used to make brandy. From the second half of the 19th century onwards, rural households began to dry larger quantities of plums, making dried plums one of the most important Serbian export items in the early 20th century. As the exports of dried plums grew, farmers were beginning to realize that a little effort could result in significant gain. This realization and experience resulted in an increase of land under plums.⁴⁰

Unlike the old districts, where the production of dried plums had become widespread, in the liberated areas orchards took up a small portion of cultivated land. The share of land under orchards in the total surface area of cultivated land stood in 1889 at 9.7% in the old districts and only at 0.4 percent in the new areas (see *Chart 7*). The small numbers of plum trees in the liberated areas were a result of the geographical and economic factors and circumstances, much like those in the eastern regions of Serbia – Svrlijig, Zaglavak and the counties of Banja and Aleksinac.⁴¹ The numbers of plum trees rose gradually in the new areas as well, following the trend in the rest of Serbia. For instance, between 1889 and 1903, the land under plum orchards in the old districts increased more than twofold and in the liberated areas as much as eightfold (see *Chart 11*). The great increase of land under plums in the new areas was brought about primarily by opening up the possibilities of marketing plums, non-existent prior to 1878. In the old districts, the production of dried plums resulted in surpluses intended for exports as early as in the 1860s.⁴²

Chart 11: Land under plum orchards, presented in hectares, 1889–1903⁴³



⁴⁰ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Земљорадња у Србији*, 132, 138, 139; Б. Миљковић Катић, *О гајењу и преради шљиве*, 218.

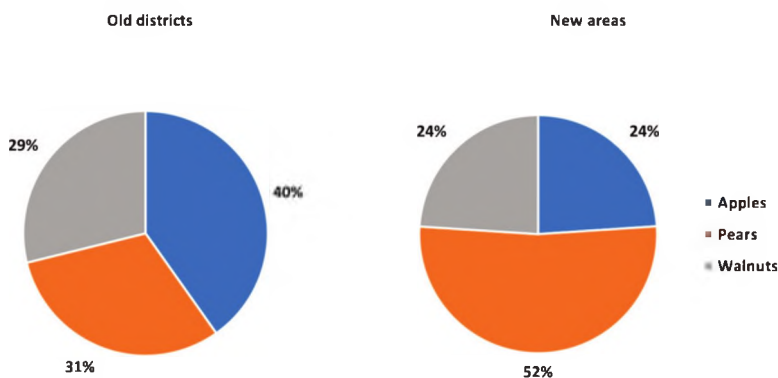
⁴¹ The households in the counties of the district of Banja had the smallest number of plum trees on average in 1834. Zaglavak did not have a single tree. Б. Миљковић Катић, *О гајењу и преради шљиве*, 216.

⁴² *Ibidem*, 224.

⁴³ The chart is based on the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1889. године*, 1–237; *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1893. године*, 181–187; *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1903. године*, 181–187.

As previously mentioned, the plum monoculture was prevalent in the old districts. If different fruit tree percentages are considered, it can be observed that only 3% of trees were fruit other than the plum in the old districts. In the new areas, the share of apples, pears and walnuts was higher, standing at 18 percent. In the old districts, apples were the second most frequent fruit after plums and in the new areas it was pears (see *Chart 12*).

Chart 12: *The ratio of different fruit tree numbers (excluding plums) in the old districts and new areas in 1897⁴⁴*



Industrial crops

The production of industrial crops did not result in significant yields, with the exception of hemp. Its threads were used to make fabrics in rural households. This is why this plant was widespread in the entire territory of Serbia, given that rural households still met most of their own needs.⁴⁵

In the south, in the general area of Vranje and Leskovac, the craft production of rope developed during Turkish rule and local workshops used the yarn spun in households in the neighbouring villages. In the early 20th century, as many as 7,000 inhabitants of these two towns and neighbouring villages were in this line of work. From 1886 and the establishment of railway transport, the export of ropes began. The majority of the goods – about three quarters – were exported to Turkey, Bulgaria

обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1897. године, 350–361; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1900 годину, 4–70; Статистика земљорадње и жетвеног приноса у Краљевини Србији за 1903 годину, 4–87.

⁴⁴ The chart is based on the following: *Попис обрађене земље у Краљевини Србији 1897. године, 350–361.*

⁴⁵ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Земљорадња у Србији*, 125.

and Greece. Owing to the advanced state of rope production, nearly all of the land areas around Leskovac and Vranje, as well as the Morava Basin, which were suited for the growing of hemp, were indeed sown with it. The biggest manufacturer was Dobrič, producing one third of hemp yarn.⁴⁶

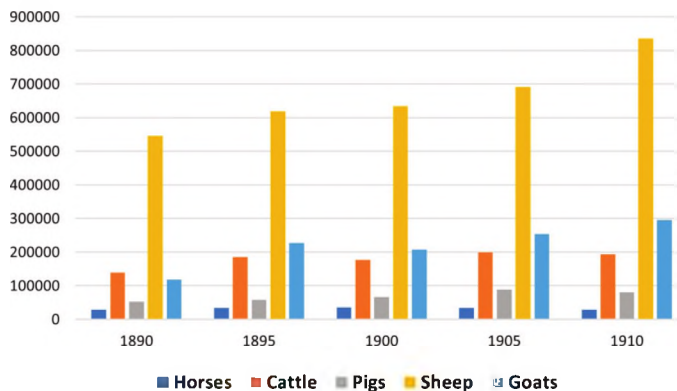
Under the state monopoly, in the late 19th century the production of the *Morava* tobacco developed in the district of Vranje. The municipalities of Leskovac and Vlasotince were also awarded the right to grow tobacco. According to the law on tobacco monopoly, in 1890 specific townships and counties in the districts of Aleksinac, Kruševac, Užice, Drina, Krajina and Čačak were allowed to grow tobacco. The total production stood at 1,058 tonnes on average and was bought off in its entirety by the Belgrade Tobacco Factory.⁴⁷

Animal husbandry

With a low population density and a small share of cultivated land, the southeast of present-day Serbia was the primary animal husbandry area after the liberation from Turkish rule, making use of traditional extensive livestock production. The same types of large and small livestock were raised in the new areas as in the old districts. The raising of the domestic buffalo was the only thing that set apart the liberated areas in the south.

The mountainous and hilly regions along the then border with Bulgaria and Turkey were primarily animal husbandry areas. The eastern parts which belonged to the district of Pirot were adjacent to the Timok region, making up a zone with the most developed sheep and goat raising in Serbia at the time (see *Map 4*).

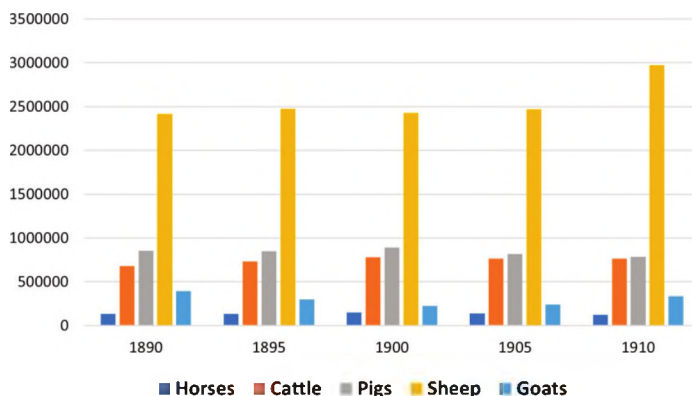
Chart 13: *The number of heads of the most important livestock types in the old districts, 1890–1910*⁴⁸



⁴⁶ М. Савић, *Производња кудеље и кућевна индустрија у Врањском округу*, Београд 1912, 1, 5, 19.

⁴⁷ Б. Мијатовић, *Дуван и српска држава у XIX веку*, Београд 2006, 25–26, 132–133.

⁴⁸ The chart is based on the following: *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1890. године*, 1–229; *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године*, 236–239; *Попис домаће стоке 31.*

Chart 14: *The number of heads of the most important livestock types in the new areas, 1890–1910*⁴⁹

Small livestock

In almost all mountainous regions of Serbia in the late 19th and early 20th century, sheep raising was still one of the main economic branches. Cattle raisers' settlements had been around in these parts since days of old and were especially numerous in the hilly and barren areas, at the foot of mountains or on heights. The raising of small livestock – sheep and goats – was the main occupation of the populations of Gornja Resava, Zvižd, Homolje, Kučaj, Kopaonik, Golija, Zlatibor in the old areas and Zaglavak and Vranjsko Krajište in the new areas.⁵⁰

Sheep were the most numerous domesticated animals in the old districts and new areas. In the mid-19th century, the number of sheep exceeded the number of inhabitants. In 1900, Serbia was in the first place in Europe in terms of the ratio of sheep to general population (122.83 heads of cattle per 100 inhabitants) and in the second place, following England, with 63.4 heads of cattle per square kilometre.⁵¹

If the old districts and the liberated areas are examined separately, it can be observed that these two territorial units exhibit different trends in the development

децембра 1900. године, 2–465; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1905. године, 2–593; Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године, 82–83.

⁴⁹ The chart is based on the following: *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1890. године, 1–229; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године, 236–239; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1900. године, 2–465; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1905. године, 2–593; Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године, 82–83.*

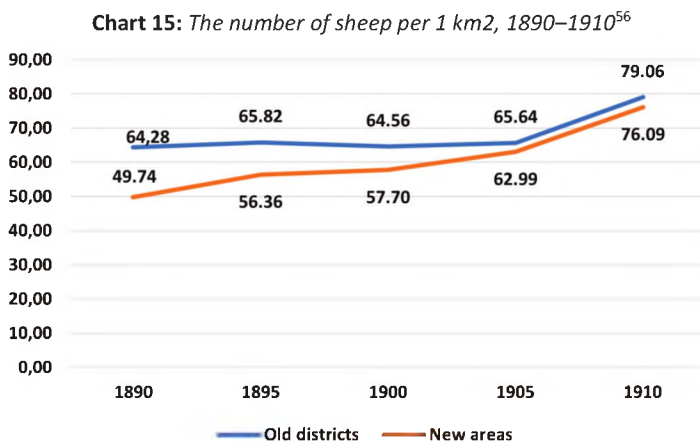
⁵⁰ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Пољопривреда Србије од 1878. до 1912. године*, Филозофски факултет Универзитета у Нишу, doctoral dissertation defended in 2017, 311.

⁵¹ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Пољопривреда Србије*, 328.

of sheep husbandry. From 1866 to 1905, the number of sheep in the old areas went down from 2,667,310 to 2,418,125 and almost stagnated in the next 15 years. This sort of trend was a result of the population increase, due to which the village meadows – the basis of cattle-grazing in extensive livestock production – were converted into farmland. In order to secure new space for animal husbandry, old areas were expanded and new ones created by clearing, which the state attempted to prevent legally, with varying degrees of success.⁵² Nonetheless, in the short space of time between the 1905 census and the 1910 census, the number of sheep increased steeply by 20 percent.⁵³ On the other hand, sheep husbandry in the new areas was on a steady rise, with some fluctuations (see *Chart 15*).

In the early 20th century, the district of Niš was in the first place in terms of absolute numbers of heads of cattle, standing at 276,920 in 1900. In the following decade, the district of Požarevac took the lead, with 343,166 heads of cattle in 1910. Closely following were the districts of Vranje (341,648) and Niš (330,725).⁵⁴

As regards the counties, the counties of Krajina and Nišava stood out in terms of the total number of sheep. The county of Krajina had 109,140 heads of cattle in 1895 and the county of Nišava 107,416. In the following years, the county of Nišava took the lead, with as many as 134,069 barrows in 1910.⁵⁵



⁵² М. Лутовац, *Сточарство и сточарски живот на Бељаници, Кучају сам Ртњу, планинама источне Србије*, Гласник Етнографског института 9–10 (1960–1961) 20–21.

⁵³ *Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године*, 80.

⁵⁴ *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1900. године*, 469; *Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године*, 81.

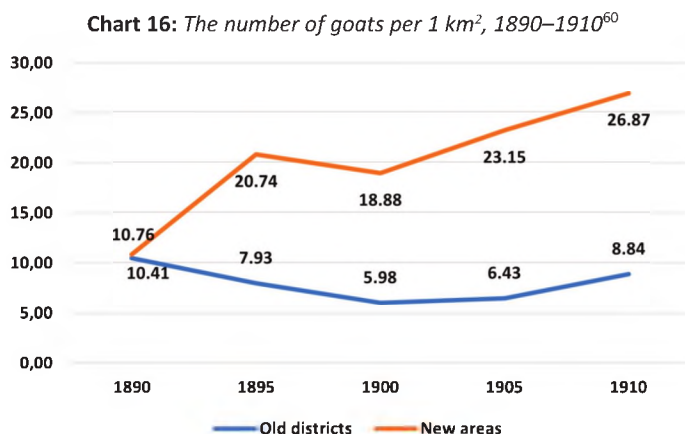
⁵⁵ *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године*, 237, 239; *Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године*, 83.

⁵⁶ The chart is based on the following: *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1890. године*, 1–229; *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године*, 236–239; *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра*

Goat husbandry was developed in Serbia in addition to sheep husbandry. In terms of the ratio of goat numbers to general population numbers, in the mid-19th century Serbia was in the second place in Europe, behind Greece. This was a result of a diverse animal feed for goats and their resistance to diseases.⁵⁷

Goats were primarily raised in areas with a high-quality, abundant forage, a suitable terrain, undeveloped land cultivation and sparse population. The villages in the southeastern regions liberated in 1878, as well as those in eastern Serbia, stood out in terms of the numbers of this specific type of small livestock. The area around Vranje and Budžak had especially high numbers, outstripping even the number of sheep. The regions that had particularly high numbers of goats were Klisura and Poljanica in the district of Vranje. Some villages in Poljanica, e.g. Mijakovce, were known as “goat spots”, as goats were primarily raised there. In the old districts, goats and sheep were the most prevalent animals in Crna Reka, Ključ, Krajina, Poreč and Gornja Resava.⁵⁸

The domestic goat is characterized by long hair. Carding goat hair and spinning it was overly complex and required greater investments than the processing of wool, which is why almost no handicrafts were made from goat hair. It was sold to tradesmen or used by the village craftsmen – known as goat hair weavers. This craft was characteristic of the regions where large numbers of goats were raised, e.g. Poljanica, Gornja Visoka, Gornja Lužnica and the county of Bela Palanka. The goat hair weavers of Vranje were best-known for their skill.⁵⁹



1900. године, 2–465; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1905. године, 2–593; Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године, 82–83.

⁵⁷ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Пољопривреда Србије*, 337.

⁵⁸ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Пољопривреда*, 334, with older literature.

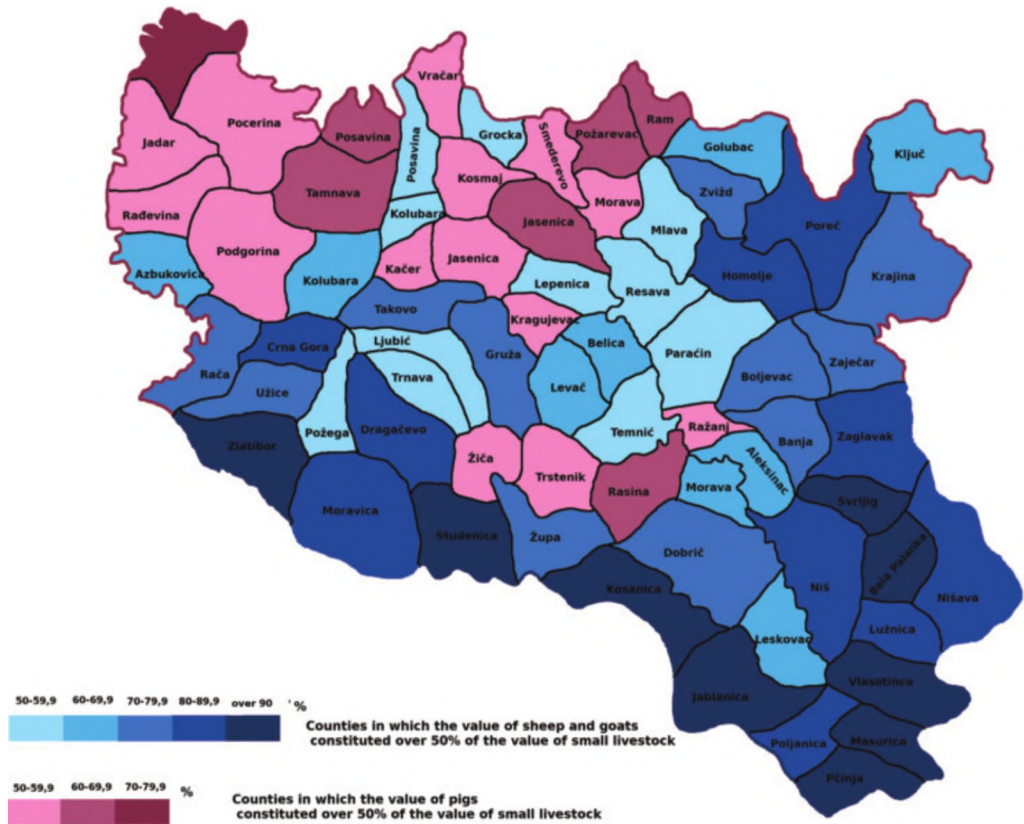
⁵⁹ *Ibidem*, 335–336.

⁶⁰ The chart is based on the following: *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1890. године*, 1–229; *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године*, 236–239; *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра*

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Sheep had the biggest share of the livestock resources in Serbia. Alongside goats, they contributed over 50% of small livestock value in most counties. Their numbers were especially high in the mountainous regions of eastern, southeastern, southern and southwestern Serbia. With a share in the total value of small livestock exceeding 90%, sheep and goats were especially numerous in six counties in the new areas (Bela Palanka, Vlasotince, Masurica, Pčinja, Jablanica and Kosanica) and three counties in the old districts (Svrljig, Zlatibor and Studenica) (see *Map 4*).

Map 4: The ratio of the values of pigs, sheep and goats in 1895⁶¹



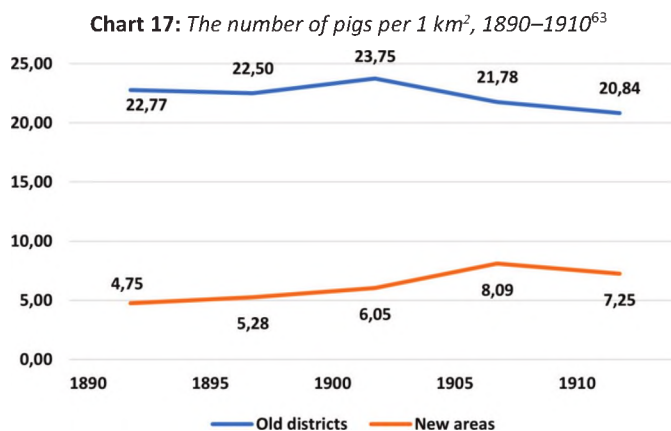
1900. године, 2–465; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1905. године, 2–593; Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године, 82–83.

⁶¹ The map is based on the following: Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године, 372–385.

Unlike in the new areas, pig farming was developed in the old districts. For instance, in the county of Mačva the value of pigs constituted 74% of the small livestock value. In terms of the share of pigs in the total value of small livestock, the counties of Posavina, Tamnava, Jasenica, Požarevac, Ram and Rasina also stood out (see *Map 4*).

Pigs were raised in almost all the regions of Serbia. In Mačva, Morava Valley, Jasenica and Braničevo, it was the most important type of animal husbandry. Nearly the entire population raised pigs in areas with vast oak and beech forests. In the first half of the 19th century, the trade in fattened pigs was monopolized by Prince Miloš, who allowed only his intermediaries to engage in it and buy pigs off. Once pig trade was liberalized, many tradesmen from these parts became involved. They would travel from village to village, buy “ripe” pigs and then herd them. In the late 19th century, instead of being fed in forests, thin pigs were herded to the areas where corn was cheapest and they were fattened there. In the northern regions, close to the border with Austria-Hungary, there were feeding pens for large numbers of pigs near towns and villages. For example, many pigs were fed in the area around Požarevac, so Požarevačka Morava yielded 40,000 fattened pigs per year before the First World War, half of which was transported to Austria-Hungary.⁶²

Pigs were raised to a considerably lesser extent in the new areas than in the rest of Serbia, where the main purpose of pig farming was to sell them. Once the households from the liberated areas were included in the Serbian livestock market, pig farming started to develop there as well. Although pig numbers increased by 53% between 1890 and 1910, pig farming in the new areas would not catch up with the pig farming in the old districts (see *Chart 17*).



⁶² М. Миладиновић, *Пољаревачка Морава*, Српски етнографски зборник, књ. 43, Насеља и порекло становништва, књ. 25, Београд 1928, 51–52; Б. Дробњаковић, *Јасеница*, Српски етнографски зборник, књ. 25, Насеља и порекло становништва, књ. 13, Београд 1923, 32–33.

⁶³ The chart is based on the following: *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1890. године*, 1–229; *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године*, 236–239; *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра*

Poultry farming

Another branch of economy which became lucrative for rural households was poultry farming. Serbia had favourable conditions for the development of poultry farming. Crop residues, of which there had always been sufficient quantities, provided a wealth of food for various types of poultry, so that there was hardly any household without varying numbers of almost all poultry types.⁶⁴

Chicken farming was prevalent in Serbia, with an 84% share of chicken in the total number of farmed birds in the old districts in 1900 and a 92% share in the new areas. In addition to chicken, turkeys, geese and ducks were also farmed, but to a considerably lesser extent.⁶⁵ The greatest numbers of geese and ducks could be found in the villages by the rivers Sava, Velika Morava and Danube, as well as by smaller rivers.⁶⁶

In the higher-altitude villages, which were especially numerous in the liberated areas, poultry was farmed in a smaller degree and almost exclusively for home purposes. Although the poultry numbers in the new areas were smaller than in the old districts, poultry farming was an important industry there as well and the number of farmed birds was 50% higher than the population number.⁶⁷

In the early 20th century, buying off eggs and poultry for exports developed,⁶⁸ resulting in an increased importance of areas near the railway and the appearance of the first meat processing facilities in its vicinity. In this way, what had been a marginal housewives' activity became a new source of monetary income for rural households. Between the first poultry census, conducted in 1900 and 1910, the total number of various types of poultry increased from 4,740,959 to 6,721,950.⁶⁹ In the old districts this increase stood at 37% and in the new areas at 70 percent.⁷⁰

1900. године, 2–465; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1905. године, 2–593; Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године, 82–83.

⁶⁴ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Развој живинарства у Краљевини Србији*, Историјски часопис 65 (2016) 277–278.

⁶⁵ *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1900. године, 2–465.*

⁶⁶ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Развој живинарства*, 278.

⁶⁷ *Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године, 6–8, 82–83.*

⁶⁸ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Сер Едвард Браун о живинарству у Краљевини Србији*, Држава и политике управљања (18–20. век), Београд 2017, 220.

⁶⁹ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Развој живинарства*, 282, 298, 300.

⁷⁰ *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1900. године, 2–465; Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године, 82–83.*

Large livestock

Cattle and horses were necessary as beasts of burden in the agriculture of all the regions of Serbia. Up until the 20th century, cattle were the most important domestic animals in Serbia. They had an important role in agriculture as beasts of burden and transport, especially in mountainous terrain and marshlands, where they were safer to use than horses. In addition, cattle provided meat, hide, tallow and milk.⁷¹

Larger cattle types, such as the ones from Kolubara, Resava, or Jasenica, were raised in the lowland villages, while the small cattle breed of Busha was raised in the mountainous and less fertile regions. Cattle farming was more developed in the Valjevo area, Veliko Pomoravlje, Lepenica and Jasenica, where large livestock was raised – the Kolubara, Tamnava and Resava breeds.⁷²

While tradesmen mostly bought off pigs directly from farmers in villages, most of the trading in other kinds of livestock was conducted in marketplaces. Cattle trade made up the bulk of trade. Cattle had a share of 66.8%, sheep of 19.4%, goats of 6.2%, horses of 5.3% and pigs of 2.3% in the total number of animals bought and sold in marketplaces between 1890 and 1908.⁷³

The price of horses and cattle was many times higher than that of small livestock. This is why the share of large livestock, especially cattle, was very significant in the total value of livestock resources in the whole of Serbia.⁷⁴ For instance, in 1900 the share of cattle in the total livestock resources in the old districts stood at only 18 percent and in the new areas at 16 percent. At the same time, their share in the total value of livestock in most counties exceeded 50 percent. The counties with developed horse farming (Posavina, Mačva, Ram), small livestock farming – sheep (Bela Palanka, Lužnica, Homolje) and pig farming (Morava, Jasenica) were exceptions. But even in the counties with very developed sheep and pig farming, the value of small livestock did not exceed the total value of cattle and horses.⁷⁵

In areas such as Mačva, Stig and Donja Morava, horses were used for riding and as beasts of burden. In these parts, larger horses were also used in land farming – primarily for threshing and, less frequently, ploughing. In the new areas and the mountainous regions of the old districts, where roads were of poor quality, horses were used to carry smaller loads to the marketplace and the mill, for riding, maintaining connections between the village and the mountain, as well as for transporting water if it was far away from the cattle raisers' settlements.⁷⁶

⁷¹ Л. Јовановић, *Пољска привреда у Србији*, Београд 1900, 75, 77.

⁷² С. Вукосављевић, *Историја сељачког друштва*, III, *Социологија сељачких радова*, Београд 1983, 133; Г. Гарић Петровић, *Пољопривреда Србије*, 255–257.

⁷³ *Статистички годишњак Краљевине Србије*, књ. 1–12, Београд 1893–1913.

⁷⁴ According to the data from 1900, the average price of horses stood at 172 dinars, oxen at 144, cows at 88, rams at 10, sheep and goats at 7. Of the small livestock, fattened pigs would fetch the highest price of 78 dinars, unlike thin ones, which were priced at only 24 dinars. *Статистички годишњак Краљевине Србије* 5, Београд 1904, 229.

⁷⁵ *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1900. године*, 478–489.

⁷⁶ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Пољопривреда Србије*, 284 (with older literature).

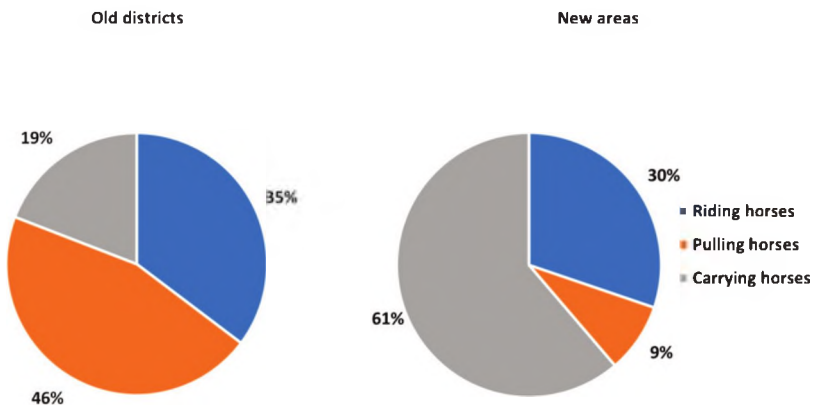
These horses were used by carriers to transport goods, especially in the first half of the 19th century. The carriers remained involved in trading specific products in later times as well (tar, kindling wood, wool, tallow and hide). Carriers from Zlatibor, Užička Crna Gora and Ibar were very well-known back in the day.⁷⁷

In the new areas, transport and trade were focused on Vidin and Lom Palanka in the Nišava Valley. Until railroads were built, carrier caravans transported goods all the way to Sofia and Istanbul.⁷⁸

As new roads were built, horse-based transport was gradually replaced with road transport. The switch re-oriented carriers towards trade, on the one hand and incited the rural population to start raising cattle and high-quality oxen of burden, on the other. In the Morava Valley this switch took place earlier than in the other areas. Soon after the liberation of Serbia, horse-based transport of goods was replaced with cart-based transport, which remained the main method of goods transportation until railroads were constructed.⁷⁹ This also resulted in the stagnation of horse farming between 1890 and 1910 (see *Chart 13* and *Chart 14*).

Because of the features of the terrain and the undeveloped road network, the mountainous regions of Serbia saw more horses of burden raised, which were used to transport goods (see *Chart 18*).

Chart 18: *The ratio of the numbers of riding, pulling and carrying horses in the old districts and new areas in 1895*⁸⁰



⁷⁷ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Проблем издатака Управе државне ергеле у Љубичеву за чиновнике и служитеље*, Мешовита грађа (Miscellanea) 40 (2019) 122–123.

⁷⁸ О. Срдановић-Бараћ, *Српска аграрна револуција и пољопривреда од Кочине Крајине до краја прве владавине кнеза Милоша (1788–1839)*, Београд 1980, 219–220; Б. Костић, *Белопаланачка котлина*, Београд 1970, 109, 125.

⁷⁹ Д. Антонијевић, *Алексиначко поморавље*, Српски етнографски зборник, књ. 83, Живот и обичаји народни, књ. 35, Београд 1971, 79–80; Г. Гарић Петровић, *Проблем издатака*, 123.

⁸⁰ The chart is based on the following: *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године*, 360–361.

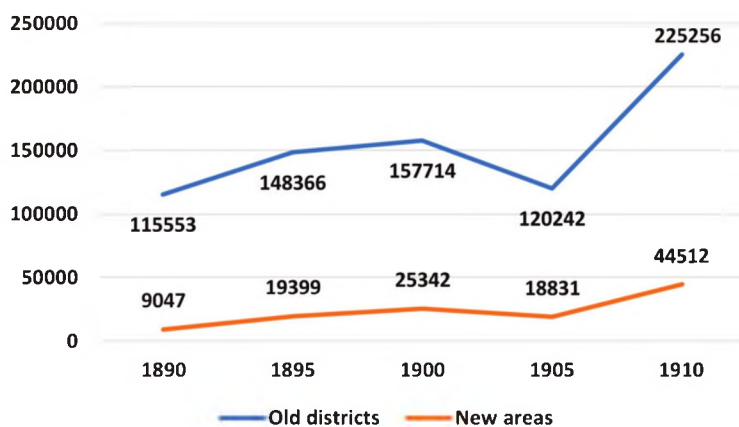
The specificity of the southern districts was the farming of domestic buffalos, which were almost non-existent in the other regions. Domestic buffalos were raised in the districts of Vranje and Toplica. As many as 92% of the total number of buffalos in the state were registered in these two districts in 1895.⁸¹

There was also a certain quantity of donkeys and mules. After the liberation, the raising of buffalos and donkeys did not stop. On the contrary, a small number of domestic buffalos were registered in the old areas. A certain number of donkeys and mules were registered in the mountainous and hilly regions of both the old districts and new areas and were used as beasts of burden.

Beekeeping

Beekeeping underwent significant changes. In the new areas, the number of hives had suddenly increased, by more than two times, from 9,047 in 1890 to 19,399 in 1895. The trend continued in the later period, so that the number of hives in 1910 reached 44,512 – a fivefold increase since 1890. In the same period, the number of hives in the old districts was only doubled (see *Chart 19*).

Chart 19: *The number of hives, 1890–1910*⁸²



Measures to modernize beekeeping were taken alongside the increase in the number of beehives – movable frame hives (the so-called Dzierzon hives, or American

⁸¹ *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године, 236–239.*

⁸² The chart was based on the following: *Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1890. године, 1–229; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1895. године, 236–239; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1900. године, 2–465; Попис домаће стоке 31. децембра 1905. године, 2–593;*

hives, as they were referred to) were also introduced.⁸³ By 1910, their share in the old districts stood at 12 and in the new areas at 11 percent.⁸⁴

Conclusion

Sparsely populated and with a small percentage of cultivated land, the southeast of present-day Serbia was the primary livestock production area after the liberation from Turkish rule and used the traditional extensive livestock production methods. This was a result of the natural conditions and the life in the periphery of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century, at a time when many important political, economic and administrative changes took place in the autonomous Principality of Serbia.

The mountainous regions of the new areas were economically much like the neighbouring mountainous regions in the old districts. These regions had highly developed sheep and goat farming, as well as the farming of more resistant small grain crops.

After 1878, the new areas also became an economic part of the system that had been developing for many decades in the Principality of Serbia. In the decades that followed, the rural households in the districts of Niš, Pirot, Vranje and Toplica managed to considerably increase the agricultural land area, as well as to resolve the issue of agrarian debt with the help of the state. Land under all sorts of agricultural crops increased (with the exception of vine), as did the numbers of all types of livestock. Breaking into the new market opened up the possibility of developing the as-yet undeveloped or neglected agricultural branches, such as pig and poultry farming, as well as beekeeping.

Although their effects only became apparent in the late 19th and early 20th century, all the factors aimed at improving agricultural production in the rest of the state should not be neglected – state economists, agricultural schools, agricultural stations and seed-plots, various associations and cooperatives. For instance, active in the new areas were the Vine Seed-Plot in Niš (1894), the Agricultural Station of the District of Vranje in Leskovac, with a practice-based agricultural school (1900), the branches of the Serbian Agricultural Society (Niš, Pirot), county seed-plots (Niš, Prokuplje, Pirot, Vlasotince, Leskovac, Bela Palanka, Surdulica, Vladičin Han) as well as a number of land farmers' cooperatives.

Претходни резултати пописа становништва и домаће стоке у Краљевини Србији 31. децембра 1910. године, 82–83

⁸³ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Новине у пчеларству у Србији на крају 19. и почетку 20. века*, Гласник. Историјски архив Ваљево 51–52 (2018) 141.

⁸⁴ Г. Гарић Петровић, *Новине у пчеларству*, 146–147.

Gordana Garić Petrović

**ALCUNE SPECIFICHE REGIONALI DELLA PRODUZIONE AGRICOLA IN SERBIA:
VECCHIE CIRCOSCRIZIONI E AREE LIBERATE ALLA LUCE DEI DATI STATISTICI
(1878-1912)**

Riassunto

Il territorio annesso al Principato di Serbia nel 1878 copriva una superficie di poco più di 10.000 km² con 299.640 abitanti. Amministrativamente, era diviso nelle quattro circoscrizioni di Nis, Pirot, Vranje e Toplica. Le aree liberate erano scarsamente popolate. Il piccolo numero di abitanti e la vita alla periferia dell'Impero Ottomano avevano segnato in gran parte l'economia delle nuove regioni. L'aumento della popolazione, che seguì alla liberazione, condizionò l'espansione dei terreni coltivabili e lo sviluppo della produzione di cereali, che costituivano la base dell'alimentazione della popolazione.

Il ramo dell'economia più sviluppato nelle aree liberate era l'allevamento estensivo di bestiame e l'agricoltura, con un livello di produttività relativamente basso. La produzione agricola era ulteriormente gravata dalla questione della proprietà della terra. Il risarcimento dovuto agli ex proprietari terrieri turchi, imposto dal Trattato di pace di Berlino, fu un grande fardello per la popolazione delle nuove regioni fino a quando i debiti non furono cancellati nel 1907.

Come nelle vecchie circoscrizioni anche nelle nuove zone vi era una struttura sfavorevole delle tenute contadine, in cui la maggior parte dei terreni era costituita da appezzamenti inferiori ai 5 ettari. La scarsa produttività delle aree liberate era notevolmente influenzata, oltre che da piccole e frammentate aziende agricole, anche dalla scarsa dotazione di attrezzi agricoli da parte delle famiglie. L'uso di strumenti e macchine più moderne si diffuse principalmente nelle famiglie rurali delle vecchie aree con un'agricoltura sviluppata, come la circoscrizione di Požarevac o Macva.

La maggior parte della terra utile dal punto di vista agricolo veniva utilizzata per la coltivazione di cereali, che costituivano la base della dieta della popolazione. Seguivano prati e pascoli, mentre una parte significativamente più piccola dell'area era coltivata a ortaggi, frutteti e vigneti. La terra seminata con piante industriali, per superficie, era pressoché trascurabile. Nel periodo osservato diminuì solo la superficie dei vigneti, mentre si espanse la coltivazione di altre colture agricole.

I due cereali più importanti coltivati in Serbia erano il mais e il frumento. Nelle vecchie circoscrizioni, il mais e altri tipi di grano occupavano aree quasi uguali, mentre nelle nuove aree il mais occupava la metà degli altri tipi di grano che erano piantati sul 60% della superficie. Nelle nuove regioni, altri tipi di grano occupavano la maggior parte dei terreni coltivabili.

Il territorio occupato dal Regno di Serbia era un'area estremamente favorevole alla coltivazione della vite. Tuttavia, subito dopo l'annessione dei territori liberati, si diffuse in Serbia la mortale infezione da fillossera. Nei dieci anni successivi si diffuse

distruggendo vigneti in tutta la Serbia. Gli ultimi ad essere colpiti furono i vigneti del sud, che all'inizio del XX secolo producevano ancora alcune quantità di vino.

Nella Serbia del XIX secolo, la frutticoltura era dominata dalla monocoltura della prugna. Oltre alle prugne, venivano coltivati pochi altri frutti. La maggior parte delle prugne veniva usata per fare la grappa. Dalla seconda metà del XIX secolo, le famiglie rurali iniziarono ad essiccare maggiori quantità di prugne e, all'inizio del XX secolo, le prugne divennero uno dei prodotti più importanti del commercio di esportazione serbo. Nelle aree liberate, i frutteti occupavano una piccola parte dei terreni coltivati. Il numero di susini aumentò gradualmente anche nelle nuove regioni, seguendo la tendenza del resto della Serbia. Ciò fu certamente influenzato dalla possibilità di piazzare le prugne, soprattutto essiccate, cosa che non esisteva prima del 1878.

La produzione di piante industriali non diede rese significative ad eccezione della canapa. Nel sud, nelle vicinanze di Vranje e Leskovac, durante il periodo della dominazione turca, si sviluppò la produzione manifatturiera di corda. Sotto il monopolio statale, alla fine del XIX secolo, si sviluppò nel distretto di Vranje la produzione del tabacco Morava.

A causa di una densità bassa di popolazione e una piccola quota di terra coltivata, il sud-est della Serbia odierna fu la principale area di allevamento del bestiame dopo la liberazione dal dominio turco. Qui era diffuso l'allevamento estensivo tradizionale di bestiame. Gli stessi tipi di bovini grandi e piccoli erano allevati nelle nuove aree, come era avvenuto prima nelle vecchie circoscrizioni. L'unica cosa diversa era l'allevamento di bufali come tipo di bestiame specifico delle aree liberate.

Le zone montuose e collinari lungo l'allora confine con la Bulgaria e la Turchia erano principalmente aree di allevamento di bestiame. Le parti orientali che appartenevano alla circoscrizione di Pirot si appoggiavano sull'area del Timok, diventando la zona con l'allevamento di pecore e capre più sviluppato nella Serbia di allora.

La pecora era l'animale domestico più diffuso, sia nelle zone vecchie che in quelle nuove. I distretti di Krajina e Nisava si distinguevano per numero di pecore. Oltre all'allevamento di pecore, si sviluppò anche l'allevamento di capre in Serbia, soprattutto nelle aree sud-orientali che furono liberate nel 1878, così come nella Serbia orientale.

A differenza delle nuove, nelle vecchie aree anche l'allevamento dei suini si era sviluppato. I maiali erano allevati in quasi tutte le parti della Serbia. A Macva, Pomoravlje, Jasenica e Branicevo, era il ramo più importante della zootecnia. Nelle nuove regioni, i suini venivano allevati in misura molto minore rispetto al resto della Serbia, dove lo scopo del loro allevamento era principalmente la vendita. Con l'inclusione delle famiglie delle aree liberate nel mercato del bestiame serbo, l'allevamento di suini iniziò a svilupparsi anche lì.

Un'altra area di attività che diventò finanziariamente redditizia per le famiglie rurali fu l'allevamento di pollame. Le galline venivano allevate principalmente in Serbia. Lo sviluppo dell'allevamento di pollame acquisì slancio all'inizio del XX secolo, quando iniziò l'acquisto di uova e pollame per l'esportazione.

Bovini e cavalli erano una forza di trazione necessaria all'agricoltura in tutte le parti della Serbia. Il prezzo dei cavalli e dei bovini era molte volte superiore al prezzo

del piccolo bestiame. Pertanto, la quota del bestiame grosso, in particolare dei bovini, nel valore totale del bestiame, era estremamente significativa in tutta la Serbia.

In Serbia, fino al XX secolo, il bovino occupava il posto più importante tra gli animali domestici. Svolse un ruolo estremamente importante nell'agricoltura come forza di trazione, così come nel trasferimento dei carichi. Inoltre, i bovini fornivano carne, pelle, grasso e latte. Le bestie più grandi venivano allevate nei villaggi di pianura, mentre una razza particolare più piccola veniva allevata nelle zone collinari e meno fertili.

Le caratteristiche agricole, così come una rete stradale sottosviluppata, influenzarono il fatto che nelle parti montuose della Serbia venissero allevati in misura molto maggiore cavalli da soma, utilizzati per il trasporto delle merci.

Cambiamenti particolarmente significativi si verificarono nel campo dell'apicoltura. Parallelamente all'aumento del numero degli alveari, vennero adottate misure per modernizzare l'apicoltura introducendo arnie con favi mobili.

Parole chiave: Serbia, agricoltura, XIX secolo, coltivazione della terra, allevamento del bestiame, guerre 1876–1878, statistica.

Гордана ГАРИЋ ПЕТРОВИЋ

**НЕКЕ РЕГИОНАЛНЕ СПЕЦИФИЧНОСТИ ПОЉОПРИВРЕДНЕ ПРОИЗВОДЊЕ
У СРБИЈИ: СТАРИ ОКРУЗИ И ОСЛОБОЂЕНИ КРАЈЕВИ У СВЕТЛУ СТАТИСТИЧКИХ
ПОДАТАКА (1878–1912)**

Резиме

Територија присаједињена Кнежевини Србији 1878. године захватала је површину од нешто више од 10.000 km² са 299.640 становника. Административно је била подељена на четири округа – Нишки, Пиротски, Врањски и Топлички. Ослобођене области су биле слабо насељено подручје. Мали број становника и живот на периферији Османског царства у великој мери је обележио привреду нових крајева. Пораст становништва који је уследио након ослобођења условио је ширење обрадивих површина и развој производње житарица које су чиниле основ исхране становништва.

Најразвијенију грану привређивања у ослобођеним областима чинило је екстензивно сточарство и земљорадња са релативно ниским степеном продуктивности. Пољопривредну производњу је додатно оптерећивало питање власништва над земљом. Обештећење бивших турских земљопоседника, наметнуто Берлинским мировним уговором, представљало је велики терет за становништво нових крајева све до отписа дугова 1907. године.

Као и у старим окрузима и у новим крајевима постојала је неповољна структура сељачких поседа, где су већину сељачких имања чинили поседи мањи од 5 хектара. На слабију продуктивност у ослобођеним областима значајан утицај је, поред малих и расцепканих поседа, имала и слаба опремљеност домаћинства пољопривредним оруђима. Употреба савременијих оруђа и машина шири се најпре у сеоским домаћинствима у старим областима са развијеном земљорадњом, попут Пожаревачког округа или Мачве.

Највећи део пољопривредно корисног земљишта био је коришћен за гајење житарица, које су чиниле основ исхране становништва. Затим су следиле ливаде и пашњаци, док је значајно мањи део површина био под поврћем, воћњацима и виноградима. Земља засејана индустријским биљкама била је по површини готово занемарљива. У посматраном периоду једино се површина винограда смањила, док се гајење осталих пољопривредних култура ширило.

Две најзначајније житарице које су узгајане у Србији биле су кукуруз и пшеница. У старим окрузима кукуруз и стрмна жита су заузимала готово једнаке површине, док су у новим крајевима стрмна жита узгајана на 60 процената обрађеног земљишта а кукуруз на упола мање. У новим крајевима, стрмна жита су заузимала већину ораница.

Територија коју је обухватала Краљевина Србија, представља подручје изузетно погодно за узгој винове лозе. Међутим, непосредно након припајања ослобођених територија у Србији се шири погубна зараза филоксере. У наредних

десет година се проширила уништивши винограде широм Србије. Последњи на удару нашли су се виноградни на југу, на коме су се почетком 20. века још увек производиле извесне количине вина.

У дветнаестовековној Србији, у воћарству готово да је владала монокултура шљиве. Поред шљива узгајано је и нешто мало другог воћа. Највећи део рода шљива коришћен је за прављење ракије. Од друге половине 19. века сеоска домаћинства почињу да суше веће количине шљива, да би почетком 20. века суве шљиве постале један од најважнијих артикала српске извозне трговине. У ослобођеним областима воћњаци су заузимали мали део обрађеног земљишта. Број стабала шљива постепено се повећавао и у новим крајевима пратећи тренд у остатку Србије. На то је свакако утицало отварање могућности за пласман шљива, посебно сушених, које нису постојале пре 1878. године.

Производња индустријских биљака није давала значајније приносе са изузетком конопље. На југу, у околини Врања и Лесковца још у периоду турске управе развила се мануфактурна производња конопца. Под државним монополем, крајем 19. века, у Врањском округу се развија и производња дувана *Морава*.

Са слабом насељеношћу и малим уделом обрађеног земљишта, југоисток данашње Србије је по ослобођењу од турске власти био примарно сточарско подручје. У њему је било заступљено традиционално екстензивно сточарство. У новим крајевима гајене су исте врсте крупне и ситне стоке, као и у старим окрузима. Издвајало се једино узгајање бивола као врсте стоке специфичне за ослобођене области.

Планинске и брдовите области уз тадашњу границу са Бугарском и Турском представљале су првенствено сточарске области. Источни делови који су припадали Пиротском округу наслањали су се на област Тимока, чинећи зону са најразвијенијим овчарством и козарством у тадашњој Србији.

Овца је била најбројнија домаћа животиња, како у старим тако и у новим областима. По броју оваца посебно су се истицали Крајински и Нишавски срез. Поред овчарства у Србији је било развијено и гајење коза, посебно у југоисточним областима које су ослобођене 1878, као и у источној Србији.

За разлику од нових крајева, у старим окрузима било је развијено и свињогојство. Свиње су се гајиле у готово свим крајевима Србије. У Мачви, Поморављу, Јасеници и Браничеву то је била најважнија грана сточарства. У новим крајевима свиње су гајене у знатно мањој мери него у остатку Србије, где је сврха њеног гајења била пре свега продаја. Са укључењем домаћинства у ослобођеним областима у српско тржиште стоке, и ту почиње да се развија свињогојство.

Друга област привређивања која постаје новчано исплатива за сеоска домаћинства је живинарство. У Србији су се у највећој мери гајиле кокошке. Развој живинарства хвата замах почетком 20. века када започиње откуп јаја и живине за извоз.

Говеда и коњи су у свим деловима Србије представљали неопходну вучну снагу у пољопривреди. Цена коња и говеда била је вишеструко већа у односу на

цену ситне стоке. Стога је удео вредности крупне стоке, посебно говеда, у укупној вредности сточног фонда био изузетно значајан на територији целе Србије.

У Србији, све до 20. века, говеда су заузимала најважније место међу домаћим животињама. Изузетно значајну улогу она су имала у земљорадњи као вучна снага, као и у преносу терета. Поред тога, говеда су давала месо, кожа, лој и млеко. Крупнија говеда гајена су у низијским селима, док је у брдским и мање плодиним крајевима гајено ситно говече буша.

Својства терена, као и неразвијеност путне мреже, утицали су на чињеницу да су у планинским крајевима Србије у много већој мери гајени товарни коњи, који су коришћени за пренос робе.

Посебно значајне промене одиграле су се у области пчеларства. Паралелно са повећањем броја кошница предузете су мере на модернизацији пчеларства увођењем кошница са покретним саћем.

Кључне речи: Србија, пољопривреда, 19. век, земљорадња, сточарство, ратови 1876–1878, статистика.