


Chapter 10

The Evolution of the Primary Sector in Greece After the Metapolitefsi

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ABSTRACT

The primary production sector has historically been crucial for economic development, but its role in the Greek economy has diminished due to global economic trends that emphasize the tertiary sector. This shift is also driven by institutional weaknesses in Greece, which hinder its ability to stand out globally. This study focuses on the importance of the primary sector for Greece, from the post-dictatorship era to today. It explores the challenges of underexploitation of natural resources, workforce shortages, and productivity improvements through innovations. The research also looks into EU policies supporting the sector. Despite contributing to GDP, the primary sector requires further investment, incentives, and strategic policies that promote domestic collaboration and enhance its global market presence. The findings offer valuable insights to policymakers to design more effective strategies for strengthening the sector and improving its competitiveness in the international arena.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The primary production sector has always been a key sector, playing a crucial role in the economic development of countries. However, in the Greek economy its role is no longer prominent due to the broader trends in the global economy, with the emphasis being increasingly placed on the tertiary sector of production, but also due to the institutional weaknesses of the Greek economy to be able to stand out in the global economy through this sector.

Highlighting the critical role of the primary sector of production for the Greek economy in the period from the post-communist period to the present day is a priority for this chapter. The historical evolution of the use of Greece's rich natural resources and the contemporary challenges raised by their inadequate exploitation will be presented. In addition, the analysis covers the impact of new technologies and innovations implemented after the transition, examining how these have improved productivity and the human resource shortages that create obstacles to the full utilization of the sector.

With the completion of half a century after the fall of the seven-year dictatorship of the Colonels and the transformation of the entire political system in Greece, in this chapter we will focus on the steps of progress that were taken during the period of the post-opposition period and perhaps those that were not taken and should have been implemented in the primary sector of production during the 50 years. The role, importance and criticality of the primary sector in the Greek economy will be highlighted, specifically from 1974 to the present day. At the same time, issues such as the great abundance of natural resources that the entire Greek territory has at its disposal and their proper exploitation, the percentage of this exploitation, their dynamics and their impact on the Greek economy will be discussed. In addition, the impact and contribution of international trade in the marketing and promotion of Greek primary sector products will be analysed. The impact and development of new technologies related to the evolution of the primary sector in Greece, especially after the post-independence period, will be part of the analysis, as well as a comparison with similar primary sectors in the countries of the Old Continent. The financial resources and funding of the European Union that reach Greece for the development of the primary sector, their contribution, and their utilization will be presented. At the same time, taking into account the effects of climate change that has as a consequence, global warming, unprecedented temperatures, prolonged heat waves, the high rates of drought observed recently, it will be studied to what extent the primary sector is turning to green growth and sustainability.

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