

Gardening in a Mountain Village in the 1940s and 1950s: Social Aspects

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(Summary)

The paper deals with practices of vegetable gardening in the village of Mezdreya, Northwestern Bulgaria before collectivization in 1958. The main question is how gardening affects social relations and, conversely, how getting into particular social relationships “makes” the garden. The interrelation between the plant world in gardens, the gardening practices, the economic interests of families, the social relations within and between families, people’s lifestyle, etc. have been studied. The article presents the interactions between families in the process of growing vegetables in irrigated gardens and in seed exchange, the association between neighbours and collective work in common benefit, the division of labour in the family based on sex and age.

Keywords: gardening; vegetable gardens; irrigation; social relationships; labour; labour division based on sex; settlement; family; time cycles; cooperation

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