

### ***'Prevention- the best cure'***

Anti-hail protection for apple orchards arrives in Kosovo!

Anti-hail protection systems were erected in apple orchards in May for the first time in Kosovo. They will act as demonstrations for apple farmers who have long complained about the devastation of their apple crops from unexpected hail storms. Producers in other countries, such as Italy, have been protected from such financial disasters for many years.



The equipment was supplied by the Austrian Company "Frustar" – whose staff also erected the first demonstration over three rows in the orchard of Sami Shatri in Tomoc, Viti. The company used the opportunity to train local service providers in the techniques of erection. These service providers then went on to erect a second demonstration in the orchard of Bejtullah Korrani in Pozharan, Viti.

While the cost of providing anti-hail protection for 1 ha worked out at a prohibitive € 15,000 using the material

imported from Austria, HPK will investigate how this cost could be reduced by (i) sourcing most of the materials locally and (ii) utilizing the hail protection system also for fruit tree support thus eliminating the need for expensive concrete posts and (iii) erection work done by local experts.

HPK, that financed the demonstration, will monitor its performance and calculate whether such technology would prove an attractive investment for Kosovo growers.

'We hope that the hail will only come to the covered rows of the orchard but not on the rest of the crop until we get ready to cover the whole orchard', said Bejtullah!



**Anti hail system in Tomoc**