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CYPRUS SMES: THE LITTLE VILLAGE AND THE BIG BANK

Like many villages in Cyprus, Agros gets a vital lifeline for family businesses hurt by the island's banking crisis

The Troodos Mountains, Cyprus's highest peaks, cup the little village of **Agros** in a natural amphitheatre surrounded by terraces of grape vines and pink roses. But the mountains couldn't shelter the 1,000 residents from the island's financial crisis.

From 2011 to 2013, the crisis struck small business particularly hard. The European Investment Bank has increased its lending in Cyprus massively since then, and the small-business owners of Agros are among the beneficiaries. "If we did not have these loans, things would be really difficult for us," says Georgia Kafkalia, who runs a **smoked meats factory in the village** with her parents and sister.



Sisters Niki and Georgia Kafkalia in their meat factory in Agros, Cyprus

