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Romania's Agricultural Production in The EU Context

Nicoleta MATEOC-SÎRB¹, Teodor MATEOC-SÎRB^{1*}, Oana SICOE-MURG¹, Anisoara DUMA-COPCEA³, Tabita ADAMOV¹

¹ *University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, Timis, Romania, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, Department of Management and Rural Development*

² *Romanian Academy - Branch of Timisoara, Timis, Romania, Research Center for Sustainable Rural Development of Romania*

³ *University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, Timis, Romania, Faculty of Agricultural, Department of Soil Sciences,*

Abstract: The situation of agriculture and rural areas in Romania after more than three decades of transformations and reforms reflects a complex process, influenced by multiple political, economic, legal and social events and interventions in the 20th century. In contrast to other Western European countries, Romania has faced repeated political instability, which has affected the continuity and viability of the national agricultural system. Thus, these transformations have prevented the development of a stable and competitive agricultural sector, negatively influencing the evolution of rural areas in recent decades. These developments have often been accentuated by the adaptation to the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union, with the country's accession to the EU in 2007. Romania's accession to the European Union in 2007 was a crucial moment for Romanian agriculture, marking the beginning of a new era characterized by both opportunities and challenges. Agriculture not only provides agri-food products essential for domestic consumption, thus ensuring population nutrition, but it is also an important supplier of raw materials for the processing industry. This thus contributes not only to food security, but also to the economic development of the country. In this paper, an analysis of agricultural productions is carried out: statistical data shows that, although Romania has the potential necessary to meet the internal demand for agri-food products, at present, our country imports significant amounts of food which has made the commercial balance in this sector negative for three decades.

• Introduction

The Romanian rural economy is currently largely represented by agriculture. It enjoys favorable geographical conditions, such as relief, climate and high percentage of fertile soils, as well as the attachment of the rural population to the land and animals. These aspects can make Romanian agriculture a profitable and attractive branch for investors, contributing significantly to the growth of the national economy. In developed countries, agriculture is perceived as a modern industry, which includes not only the production activity, but also parts of the distribution of agricultural goods and products. Some economists consider it not only a "strategic sector", but also a "vital" one, because it ensures basic food for the population, supplies raw materials for processing industries and plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance and social stability. The dominant ownership of land, its extension in upstream and downstream sectors, market liberalization, as well as the technological modernization of production and distribution channels allow the modern development of rural communities.

• Material and method

The research methods and scientific instruments used in the development of this work are diverse and appropriate to the proposed objectives. The main method applied is content analysis, which allows the interpretation and interpretation of information from the sources consulted. The work includes a study carried out through scientific documentation, following several essential stages: information on sources, data collection, study of documentation sources, processing and grouping of information, as well as their evaluation and in-depth analysis in order to achieve the goal of knowledge of the field studied. The methodology combines research from secondary sources with a direct and analytical approach, covering multiple dimensions of the field of study and ensuring a solid foundation for the results obtained.

• Results and discussions

The analysis of Romania's agricultural situation highlights significant potential, but also numerous challenges that need to be addressed to ensure food security and capitalize on national resources. Specialists emphasize that, due to favorable soil and climatic conditions, our country has the capacity to cultivate a diverse range of crops and raise animal species to meet the needs of the population. However, statistical studies show that, in the last three decades, Romania has become dependent on imports of basic products such as meat, fruit and vegetables, due to the inefficiency of the domestic agri-food sector and the difficulties in the functioning of supply chains in the context of a market economy. This situation indicates a lack of competitiveness of Romanian producers on the domestic and international markets, as well as an insufficient and structurally unhealthy agri-food supply.

Production of cereals for grains (including seeds), 2023

Country	Production [thousand tons]
UE-27	2708481
France	63801
Germany	42508
Poland	35184
Romania	20571
Hungary	15082
Italy	14338
Spain	12459
Bulgaria	9791
Czechia	7996
Denmark	7055
Lithuania	5581
Austria	5235
Slovakia	4283
Sweden	4239
Latvia	3244
Croatia	3182
Finland	2974
Belgium	2796
Greece	2310
Ireland	1909
Netherlands	1494
Estonia	1201
Portugal	1022
Slovenia	667
Luxemburg	148
Cyprus	46
Malta	-

Evolution of livestock in Romania, thousand heads

Year	Cattle	Pigs	Sheep+Goats	Poultry
1990	5381	12003	15067	113968
1995	3496	7960	11086	70157
2000	2870	4797	8195	69143
2006	2934	6815	8405	87379
2007	2819	6565	9334	82036
2008	2684	6174	9780	84373
2009	2512	5793	10059	83843
2010	2001	5428	9623	78877
2011	1989	5364	11331	70390
2012	2009	5234	12298	71767
2013	2022	5180	12710	67989
2019	1923	3834	11954	75365
2020	1795	3577	11025	77148
2022	1834	3329	11731	78221
2023	1815	3155	11721	78749

Conclusions

Romania stands out for its varied and favorable soil and climatic conditions for obtaining diversified agricultural production, of quality and in sufficient quantities to cover domestic consumption with agri-food products but also for export. Although Romania has considerable potential for agriculture, the yields obtained from Romanian agriculture are still quite modest compared to developed EU countries, which indicates a use of production factors in agriculture below the optimal values necessary to obtain high production. The average production per hectare achieved in cereals in Romania is under 30% below the average level recorded in EU countries. In Romania, although animal husbandry is a traditional field, animal herds have gradually decreased, at a much faster pace than in EU-27 countries. The largest decreases in animal herds have been recorded in cattle and pigs. In agriculture, incomes fluctuate more strongly than in most other sectors, due to the strong dependence on weather and price variations.