

ASPECTS CONCERNING THE USAGE OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES, OF THE INCOMES, OF THE EXPENSES AND OF THE CONSUMPTION OF THE OCCUPIED POPULATION FROM AGRICULTURE

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The biggest differences which separate Romania from the EU average or from other countries are related to: - The high percentage of the rural population from the total population of the country; - The percentage of the occupied population in agriculture; - The small agricultural surface for an occupied person; - The small value of the agricultural production per occupied person, per hectare and per exploitation; - The small percentage of the expenses for the services from the rural environment; - The low level of the incomes compared to the country average; - The low level of the salaries for the employees from agriculture (under 70% from the average salary per economy); - The high level of the expenses for food from the total family expenses; - The level of feminization and ageing of the occupied population from agriculture; - The high percentage of the vegetal production from the total agricultural production; - The insignificant percentage of the services from the agricultural production; - The small average size of the agricultural exploitation, etc.

Key words: incomes, expenses, occupied population, human resources, structure.

The human resources from economy, the population incomes and expenses structure are aspects which make the interest of the economical theory and practice in each evolution phase of the society.

According to the information supplied by the national statistics but also according to the realities of the Romanian society, this study analyzes problems related to:

- The relationship between the active population and the occupied population in agriculture;
- The agricultural area for an occupied person in agriculture;
- The labor productivity of an occupied person in agriculture;
- The average number of active persons for an agricultural area;

- The percentage of the incomes in agriculture from the total population incomes;
- The consumption expenses structure of the occupied population in agriculture.

These indicators are calculated for the period 2000 – 2006.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The analysis of these aspects present the existence of some big differences between the Romanian agriculture, recently included in the EU, and the average of the EU-25 or EU – 27, the difference is more important considering that these countries have almost the same conditions like our country does but which have higher results (France, Italy, Spain).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Romania is one of the member countries of EU with a high level of rural population, far above the EU – 25 or EU – 27 average.

Tabel1

The average population of Romania (thousands of persons)

Type	Years				
	2000*	2002*	2004*	2006*	2006/2000 (+-)
Total population	22.435.205	21.794.793	21.673.328	21.584.365	- 850.840
%	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	-
Where:					
- urban	12.244.598	11.608.735	11.895.598	11.913.938	-330.660
%	54,6	53,3	54,9	55,2	+0,6
- rural	10.190.607	10.186.058	9.777.730	9.670.427	-520.180
%	45,4	46,7	45,1	44,8	- 0,6

* on the 1st July 2002, the population census (18.03.)

(Source: *INS Annual Statistics of Romania 2007*, page 43, calculations)

In the period 2000 – 2006 the total population of Romania decreased with 850840 persons because of the following reasons: negative natural ratting, external migration. The decrease was 330660 persons in the urban area and 520180 persons in the rural area. In these conditions the decrease of the percentage of the rural population from the total population was very slow, 0.6%, maintaining Romania among the countries with high rural population percentage.

The activity ratio was in 2006 only 44.8% of the rural population compared to 55.2% of the urban population. In the same year, the percentage of the occupied population from the total active population represented 82.1% in the rural area compared to 91.8% in the urban area, with 9.7% lower.

Table 2

Active population, occupied population and unemployment per residence areas

Type	2001	2004	2006	2006/2001 (+/-)
1. Active population (thousands of persons)	11.151	9.957	10.041	-1.110
Where:				
- urban	5.279	5.423	5.595	+316
- rural	5.872	4.534	4.446	-1.426
% rural	52,7	45,5	44,3	-8,4
2. Occupied population (thousands of persons)	10.440	9.158	9.313	-1.127
where:				
- urban	4.732	4.906	5.115	+383
- rural	5.708	4.252	4.198	-1.510
% rural	54,7	46,4	45,1	-9,6
3. Activity ratio (%)	67,7	63,2	63,7	-4,0
Where:				
-urban	61,7	61,8	62,6	+0,9
- rural	75,6	65,1	65,2	-10,4
4. Occupation ratio (%)	62,9	57,9	58,8	-4,1
where:				
- urban	55,2	55,9	57,2	+2,0
- rural	73,1	60,6	61,1	-12,0
5. Unemployment ratio (B.I.M.)*	6,4	8,0	7,3	+0,9
Where:				
- urban	10,4	9,5	8,6	-1,8
- rural	2,0	6,2	5,6	+3,6

* B.I.M.= labor international bureau

(Source: INS – the annual statistics of Romania, 2007, page 120, (calculated))

In 2006 the active population from the rural environment represented 44.3% from the total active population of the country – this percentage was close to the rural population percentage from the total population which was 44.8%.

The occupied population from the rural area represented in the same year 94.4% from the active rural population; this is a higher percentage than in the urban area 91.4%.

In 2006 from the 4.198 thousand occupied persons from the rural area, 52.5% were working in agriculture and the rest of 47.5% had other activities in the rural environment.

Table 3

The structure of the occupied population from the rural environment in 2006

Type	Occupied Persons (thousands)	%
1. Farmers and qualified workers in agriculture, forestry and fishing	2.204	52,5
2. Artisans and qualified workers in artisan jobs, machine maintenance and installations	456	10,8
3. Unqualified workers	603	14,4
4. Public administration	100	2,4
5. Specialists with intellectual and scientific occupations, technicians, chief operators etc	226	5,4
6. Operational workers in services, trade and others	243	5,8
7. Other categories and occupations	366	8,7
TOTAL	4.198	100

(Source: INS- the annual statistics of Romania 2007, page 128 (calculated))

The average size of a farmer family in 2006 was 3,507 persons compared to 2,929 persons for the national average, where 1,679 were active persons and 1,828 inactive persons.

From a farmer family of active persons only 9.6% were employees and the rest were independent workers[1].

In 2006 the used agricultural area per occupied person in agriculture was 4.9 ha compared to the average of EU – 25 which was 16.8 ha and EU – 27 which was 14 ha, being 3.43 times lower than the EU – 25 and 2.86 times lower than EU – 27; this indicator expresses the existence, at least from theoretical point of view, of and surplus of occupied population in agriculture.

The surplus of human resources in agriculture can also be explained by the average size of the agricultural exploitation from Romania, which is about 3.1 ha, meaning 5.1 times smaller than EU – 25. In EU – 27 smaller exploitations than in Romania could be found in Malta (1.0 ha), or almost the same size in Cyprus (3.5 ha) and Bulgaria (4.4 ha). The largest exploitations could be found in 2003 in Slovakia (46.1 ha), Luxembourg (52.3 ha), Denmark (54.7 ha) and Czech Republic (74.4 ha).

The efficient usage of the human resources from agriculture is reflected also in the labor productivity indicator per occupied person in agriculture.

Table 4

Labor productivity in agriculture – thousands of Lei

Type	2001	2004	2006
Agricultural production	27.842.836	55.314.136	50.649.602
Occupied population in agriculture	3.570.000	2.634.000	2.840.000
Labor productivity per occupied person in agriculture	7.799	21.000	17.834

(Source: INS –the annual statistic of Romania 2007)

Table 5

The value of the agricultural production per hectare SAU

Type	2001	2004	2006
Production in thousands of Lei	27.842.836	55.314.136	50.649.602
Surface (thousands of hectares)	14.852,3	14.711,6	13.907*
Production value	1.875	3.760	10.833
Production value (Euro)	939	928	308

*2005; Euro exchange rate: 2001-1euro=1,9956 lei, 2004-1 euro=4,0532;2006-1 euro=3,5225

(Source: INS-the annual statistics of Romania 2007)

The annual production per hectare used surface, expressed in current prices was 5.8 higher in 2006 than in 2001. Expressed in foreign currency it was smaller with 631 Euros in 2006 compared to 2001.

If Romania would have been EU member in 2004, with an agricultural production per hectare used surface of 928 Euros, it would have been placed on a 2.8 times lower level than EU – 25 (2035 Euros). In 2004 the production value per

agricultural exploitation in Romania was 3044 Euros compared to EU – 25 where the production value was 47691 Euros, meaning 11 times lower. In the same year the highest production value per agricultural exploitation was 233302 Euros in Holland and 174959 Euros in Denmark [2].

The complete analysis of the rural environment in Romania can be better understood by studying the incomes and the expenses of the families, in general, and of the farmer families, in particular.

In 2004 the total incomes of the agricultural households were almost 10% lower than the national average for four types of families: employees, farmers, unemployed and pensioners; in 2006 this percentage was almost the same.

Important differences can be noticed between the farmer's income and the employee's income, the first type of incomes was lower with 33.2% in 2004 and with 43.8% in 2006.

In 2006 the farmer's income represented 56% of the total incomes while the value of the consumed agricultural products from own resources represented 42.8% and the difference of 12% were realized from other sources.

The total incomes of the rural families

Table 6

Type	2004	2005	2006
Total incomes (lei per month/family) %	9.88,04 100,0	1.010,71 100,0	1.077,77 100,0
Where:			
- money income	48,3	56,4	56,0
- value of the consumed agricultural products from own resources	50,8	42,2	42,8
- other sources (social services, natural incomes, etc)	0,9	1,2	1,2

(Source: INS-the annual statistic of Romania 2007, page 236 (calculated))

In the same year the average salary of an employee from agriculture was 1059 lei per month, lower with 31% than the national average salary which was 1530 lei.

The salary income from agriculture was on the 11th place from the total of 13 branches of the economy, meaning 805 lei (RON), representing 70.2% of the average salary per economy, being in the same time 3.82 times lower than in the “financial intermediary” domain.

The structure of the total consumption expenses in 2006 (%)

Table 7

Type	Food products	Non-food products	Services
Total families	45,4	29,7	24,9
Employees	40,8	31,1	28,1
Farmers	61,9	25,5	12,6
Unemployed	49,4	27,6	23,0
Pensioners	48,1	28,8	23,1

(Source: INS-the annual statistic of Romania 2007, page 235)

The consumption expenses of a farmer family are focused mainly on food products: 61.9% in 2006 compared to 45.4% of total families.

It can be noticed that the farmer families are spending less for services: 2.6%, almost two times lower than the employee families and 1.8 times lower than the unemployed and pensioners.

The farmer family expenses are on the last place also for the non-food products – 25.5% compared to 29.7% average of total families; 31.1% in the case of employee families, 27.6% for unemployed and 28.8% for pensioners.

CONCLUSIONS

Differences which separate Romania from the EU are related to: the high percentage of the rural population from the total population of the country; the percentage of the occupied population in agriculture; the small agricultural surface for an occupied person; the small value of the agricultural production per occupied person, per hectare and per exploitation; the small percentage of the expenses for the services from the rural environment; the low level of the incomes compared to the country average; the low level of the salaries for the employees from agriculture (under 70% from the average salary per economy); the high level of the expenses for food from the total family expenses, etc.

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