

## STUDY DIAGNOSIS REGARDING THE NATURAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POTENTIAL OF OITUZ COMMUNE FOR ESTABLISHING THE STRATEGIES OF DURABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

I.V. CIUREA<sup>1</sup>, A. CHIRAN<sup>1</sup>,  
S. BREZULEANU<sup>1</sup>, G. UNGUREANU<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary  
Medicine of Iasi

e-mail: ivciurea@uaiasi.ro

*Common Oituz is located in the west of Bacau county, belonging to the hydrographic basin area of Oituz river. The geographical location, the nature, natural monuments and anthropogenic and human resources represent a strong economic and social potential, insufficiently exploited. The study undertaken is based on the characterization of the countryside based on a number of 7 criteria. These criteria were structured in 35 sub-criteria, on which 48 calculations were done, which constituted the starting point of the general description of the commune.*

*Of the many elements of characterization the tourist potential is noted. The basin in which the commune is located is distinguished by a common natural charming landscape represented by the forest covered mountains, with varied vegetation are dominant species of fir, spruce and beech. The fauna is characterized by a diversity and a large number of species. We have noted the presence of anthropogenic elements through Neolithical and Dacian vestiges, memorial monuments and places of worship.*

*Of the underground riches, the most important are the mineral springs, the deposits of oil and salt. The area has a high population density, especially in its inferior part. Through a strategic well-documented programme the commune may carry out a economic and social revival.*

**Key words:** mountainous area, rural development, tourist potential, strategy, durability.

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

For the study the were used both the official statistical data from DADR Bacau and the townhall of Oituz commune, which are part of the range basin. Also, investigations have been carried out on field meant to complete the set of information officially obtained. The 7 criteria envisaged to establish content indicators the characterization are: physico-geographic, demographic, economic; habitable; technical; social and environmental equipment of localities.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The synthetical data are presented in *table 1*.

Table 1

**Study diagnosis on the indicators of characterization of the area of  
Oituz commune**

Nr. crt.	Criterion	Sub-criterion	Indicators	Size
1.	Physical-geographic	1. Forms of relief	1.1.1. Main forms of relief	Mountainous and partially sub-mountainous zone
		2. Natural protected zones	1.2.1. Main categories of protected zones	Protected hunting areas in the mountainous part of the commune
		3. Natural risk factors	1.3.1. Weight of the zones under natural risk factors	20% flood risk
2.	Demographic	1. Number of the population	2.1.1. Number of inhabitants	9596
		2. Density of population	2.2.1. Inhabitants /km <sup>2</sup>	47,3
		3. Evolution of population	2.3.1. Evolution of population	Slight decrease
		4. Factors of population increase	2.4.1. Average birth rate	8,1
			2.4.2. Average death rate	12,3
			2.4.3. Average rate of migration	6,0%
			2.4.4. Average increment of population	-4,2
		5. Demographical aging	2.5.1. Index of aging population (>60 years/ 0-14 years)	1,01
		6. Renewal of labour force	2.6.1. Index of renewal of labour force(15-29/ 30-44 years)	0,93
3.	Economical	1. Agricultural potential	3.1.1. Structure of landed property	Arable-24,2% Pasture-33,8% Grasslands-40,0% Vines+Orchards-2,0%
			3.1.2. The structure of cultures on arable land	Forage-40,3% Maize-42,0% Potatoes – 5,0% Vegetables -8,4%
			3.1.3. Agricultural land /inhabitant	0,51 ha
			3.1.4. Density of animals on 100 ha	36,3 UVM/ 100 ha
		2. Forest potential	3.2.1. Forest area per inhabitant	1,54 ha
		3. Tourist potential	3.3.1. Number of adequate households for rural tourism	15%
		4. Industrial potential	3.4.1. Complexity degree of industrial activities	-transport auto; -wood processing; - service
			3.4.2. Processing agricultural products	-processing animal products ; -bread manufacture

			3.4.3. Number of enterprises at 1000 inhabitants	0,6
		5. Agricultural exploitation potential	3.5.1. Average area on types of exploitations	EI-1,5 ha
			3.5.2. The degrees of association in land exploitations	-
			3.5.3. Degree of integration of agricultural activities	-
			3.5.4. Average productions	Wheat – 3,7 t/ha Potatoes – 20,0 t/ha Vegetables – 13,6 t/ha Forage – 22 t/ha
			3.5.5. Fix capital per hectare (degree of technical equipment)	22 tractors 20 ploughs 20 trailer
		6. Property structures	3.6.1. Weight of private agricultural areas of the total areas	96%
		7. Degree of population occupancy	3.7.1. Occupied active population at 1000 inhabitants	539
			3.7.2. Population occupied in agriculture /1000 inhabitants	102/100 ha
		8. Diversification of economical activity	3.8.1. Weight of active non-agricultural population of the total active population	17%
4.	Inhabitation	1. Inhabitable area	4.1.1. Inhabitable area per inhabitant	14,2
		2. Construction materials	4.2.1. Weight of houses built from durable materials	60%
		3. The age of buildings	4.3.1. Weight of buildings less than 25-30 years old	50%
		4. New buildings	4.4.1. Weight of buildings less than 5 years old	10%
		5. Equipment of buildings with water installations	4.5.1. Weight of buildings with water installations indoors	20%
5.	Technical equipment of the locality	1. Water supply	5.1.1. Drinkable water distributed to consumers mc/inh./year	1000
		2. Energy supply	5.2.1. Degree of electrification of households	98%
		3. Natural gases supply	5.3.1. Households with pit gas-%	5,2
		4. Telephone connection	5.4.1. Degree of telephone connection to households	95%
		5. Access to transport	5.5.1. Access to train and road network	80%
6.	Social	1. Health	6.1.1. Inhabitants/physician	1600
		2. Education	6.2.1. Nr. students/teacher	16
		3. Communication	6.3.1. Nr. TV communication ticket /1000 loc.	90
		4. Infantile deaths	6.4.1. Infantile death rate	-

7.	Ecologic	1. Water	7.1.1. Air quality (frequency of excess level (LMA) of polluting substances	-
		2. Air	7.2.1. Water quality (excess frequency LMA)	-
		3. Soil	7.3.1. Soils affected by quality limitation factors	-
		4. Forests	7.4.1. Weight of forests affected by drying and deforesting phenomena of the total forest area	30%

Oituz commune starts in the inferior part of the Oituz basin area and is bordered in the north-west with Covasna county and in the north-east-Bogdanesti commune. In the East it is separated by the mountains from Casin and Casin Monastery villages and in the west part from Slanic Moldova resort.

In the mountainous part of the commune, the morphology of the land is characterized by slopes which occupy over 90 % of territory and have peaks that reach 1000-1500 m.

The climate of the locality is temperate- mainland showing some features determined by the altitude of the relief.

In the mountain area of the commune, the climate has boreal features, with some nuances, having the character of protection which is provided by the mountains.

The bio-climate of the positive relief forms result in a pronounced nebulousness, recording annual values of 5, 6 tenths.

Generally, area falls within that bioclimatic areas with therapeutic qualities.

The hydro-geological study of mineral waters within the commune has revealed the existence of the following types of mineral waters:

- chlorinated waters, usually found on the left slope of Oituz river;
- carbonated waters, with a less spreading, the basin of Brezoaia river and on the west slope of Oituz river, upstream of Halos rivulet.

In the Poiana Sarata- Harja depression 10 mineral sources are known and 19 wells with mineralized water. They belong in the chemical composition to the following waters: chlor-sodic, ferruginous, bicarbonate, alkaline waters, weakly sulphurous, some with amounts of methane gas, such as the spring of Harja downstream. These springs are similar to those of the Slanic- Moldova.

The commune, having predominantly high relief, the dominant fund of the vegetation is the woods, belonging to the boreal level. The share is hold by the forests of beech and spruce, fir, and of the shrubs: blueberry, raspberry, blackberry.

The presence of conifers at the edge of depressions such as that of Poiana Sarata has beneficial effects from the point of view of microclimate and ionization of the atmosphere nearby.

The fauna from Oituz commune is diverse and rich. Of the mammals we mention fox and wild, bear, wolf, stag etc. and of the birds, the raven, had, woodpecker, cuckoo.

The fish fauna is represented by trout, chub, barbell, grayling and lobster and appears throughout the mountain.

Together with the economical preoccupations, culture has been a factor of using the creations of the inhabitants.

An activity with deep roots is pottery. It is well represented by beautiful red ceramics of Oituz. For flowers the colors of oxides are used.

Woodworking is another ancient practice. We noted gates with flower ornaments, and mills (in part, extinct).

The dances are distinguished by variety and originality. Some of them are the Serbian mocaneasca, Sintilie, the little flower, handkerchief, duck dances.

The popular suits are distinguishable. The Poiana Sarata locality shows ethnic German influences From Sacele area and those of Oituz Commune are specific to the Moldavia region.

The Oituz commune possesses a rich and varied manmade material represented the ancient vestiges, this, commemorative, religious and cultural objectives.

On the territory of the commune ruins of a Neolithic settlement beings, a Dacian dava, a feudal castle-century of XVII-century are located.

In each locality there is one Orthodox Church, and in place of residence of Oituz commune, two Orthodox churches and three Catholic ones.

Throughout the territory of Oituz commune there are numerous monuments with commemorative character, all in memory of the heroes who died in the First World War. In Poiana Sarata -Hero Monument with a obelisk, in Harja-a commemorative monument, and in Oituz the Cemetery of Heroes with an obelisk and a bust of general Eremia Grigorescu.

Although area has numerous natural attractions and tourist anthropogenic character, the infrastructure is undeveloped. There is a resting place for tourists and two pensions, and two other pensions under construction.

The commune is crossed by a national road DN 11, making the link between Transylvania and Moldova.

Another way is 111 D county road, linking the Oituz locality to Tg.Ocna through Marginea and Bahna villages.

### Agriculture

The agricultural area of Oituz commune is of 4894 ha, being 0.51 ha of arable land per inhabitant. The structure the land is presented in *fig. 1*.

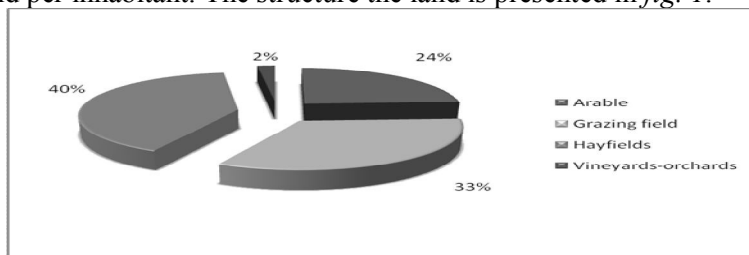


Figura 1 Structure of agricultural land

Agricultural land is in a percentage of 96% in private property.

The share of the agricultural land are the natural meadows-73% followed by arable land representing a quarter of the area.

Although the area presents a high favorableness for fruit tree growing and viticulture, the areas occupied by such plantations were reduced to 2.0%.

As for the structure of crops, there are dominant crops of maize and feedingstuffs (about 40% each), followed by vegetable 8.4 and potato 5.0%.

The animals density is reduced to 36.3 uvm/ agricultural ha having regard to the high potential of existing natural grassland.

There is a high degree of agricultural properties crushing, the average area of a holdings being 1, 5 ha, without any form of association and cooperation. The degree of mechanization is low.

### **Demographic aspects**

The total number of the inhabitants of the commune is the 9596 people with a density of 47.3 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>.

A decline was recorded in the process population drop because the rate is 8.1%. The mortality rate is 12.3%. At this lag it is added and the phenomenon of migration (6.0%).

The process of demographic aging is 1.01 and the renewal of the population is 0.93.

As regards the structure of real estates, about 50% are the houses of 25-30 years, and of the total houses over 60% are made of sustainable materials.

The study undertaken shows that the total households existing in the mountain area (Poiana Sarata and Harja localities), 15% are suitable for rural tourism.

The infrastructure is partially developed. In addition to the roads, which are upgraded, and the homes are equipped with electric networks and telephone (first and foremost mobile one) There are few houses connected to running water and sewerage (about 20%) and natural gas (5%).

The research shows high potential of natural conditions, economical and social resources. The development of some projects based on strategies for sustainable rural development, which is the main alternative should be applied to secure an economical and social revival of the commune.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. Oituz commune is located in the west part of Bacau county in mountain area. It is one of the largest communes in the county with a number of almost 10000 inhabitants and over 3000 households.

2. The commune has powerful natural, economic and social tourist attractions. There are numerous ancient vestiges, monuments and landscape and a natural attractions.

3. The economic infrastructure and tourism is undeveloped, allowing a low level of economic development with tendencies of depopulation.

4. The study undertaken constitutes a scientific basis for setting sustainable rural strategies of development and the economic and social revival.

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