

## OPPORTUNITIES OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL ROMANIAN

Elena SOARE<sup>1</sup>, Iuliana DOBRE<sup>2</sup>

*E-mail: elena\_soare@hotmail.com*

### Abstract

Multifunctionality of agriculture represents an essential element of the development of Romanian rural area. This multifunctionality refers to the fact that the development of the rural area could be achieved by the amplification of its functions creating a modern economical and social infrastructure. In fact it is about a development by which the new type of agriculture is defined namely a concept to support a rural area, a principle that is promoted and sustained otherwise by the European Union rural politics.

The creation of the multifunctional agriculture represents an advantage for the rural area, especially where there are other possibilities of assured incomes. These advantage must be used because they assure an marginal income which determines the socio-economical development of the rural area.

From a methodological point of view the paper is based on the analysis of some elements re-found at the agriculture level and their impact on the Romanian rural area multifunctional development. The results will be carried out in rendering the possibilities of development of the exploitation structures in agriculture and the convergence with other services of same domain.

**Key words:** multifunctionality, rural area, lasting development, convergence

The development of Romania's national economy basically includes the activities in the rural area. The contribution of these activities is re-found in the intrinsic values of the resources, in the possibility to amplify some activities which could generate good effects with a stable role from the economic point of view.

The multiple-function of agriculture represents an important element for the development of rural-space. Promoted and supported by the rural policy of European Union this principle contributes both to the community revitalization and the consolidation of de rural space. The multiple-function refers to the fact that the development of the rural space can by achieved by amplifying the rural community role and by creating both modern social and economic infrastructure. As a matter of fact it is a development by which the new type of agriculture is defined e.g.: that is, namely a concept of development meant to sustain the rural space.

Its birth is due to the fact that the problems of agriculture, of the rural space are not limited only to the domain of agricultural production but it also has in view the quality of the products the supply and sale markets and processing the products, too (P.I. OTIMAN, 2005). Besides all these, the development of rural space and

modernization of agriculture are possible only when the structures is changed and the labour force of this domain is reduced.

Nowadays the development of the rural space represents a complex problem because it requires imposes to arrives at a balance between the preservation of the space the tendency to modernize the rural life.

There are approaches of the problem studied in the agricultural policy of European Union which aimed at some possible convergences of the countries which joined and integrated themselves in European Union. To answer these requirements the concern within the domain of the European rural space development aimed at the diversification of the production activities of processing or offering services for agriculture complementary to these and offering some other activities of related to the rural potential, activities of marketing, of developing the infrastructure, the preserving and continuing the traditional jobs.

The International Conference in Cork "Rural Europe Future Perspectives" traced the new line of the European Community rural policy after the year 2000 (P.I. OTIMAN, 2005).

The policy of the rural development in the West-European countries based on the convergency of the agricultural activities had in

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

<sup>2</sup> Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies

view to sustain those activities upstream and downstream agriculture. There were organized small and medium -sized enterprises in the rural space which used the labour force belonging to this area. Thus, the rural population gets the possibility to work in the domain of agriculture during the whole period of obtaining the products and also in non-agricultural activities or full-time services. Until now the economic development in the rural space was determined by the prevalence of the agricultural sector, especially in the domain of production.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

This study concentrated on some studies about the present situation of Romanian's agriculture mainly on those related to the potential of developing those activities like processing the products or combining some branches that can implement some elements of diversification in the rural area. The method relies on the analysis, synthesis and estimation of the data and the information received.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The development of the Romanian rural space is in strong connection with the development of agriculture due to the economic potential represented by the natural resources.

For Romania, agriculture represents the major sector as importance to provide the security of food for the population. The actions used to ensure the food necessities must be achieved within the restrictive conditions of the natural resources which are supposed to be transmitted to the next generations. From this perspective the economic theory of development crystallized the concepts among which those of durable development and the economic growth.

The creation of the multiple-functional agriculture represents an advantage for the rural area especially where there are some other possibilities to ensure the income.

The amplification of the functions of agriculture by completing the activities of production with those of supplying, processing, marketing and sale and also the diversification of other activities (domestic industry, agrotourism) permit to create the growth conditions and to combine the income of the inhabitants and on this ground to sustain the rural space and to achieve a favorable form of economic and social development necessary to the integration.

Romania possesses an important potentiality for the development of the agricultural field and to assure the efficiency of it so that it can become the

engine of straightening out and the of economic expansion.

Most of the published studies consulted emphasized the idea that durability is achieved when simultaneously (Pele GH., 2009):

- the integrity of natural environment is maintained or this is least negatively affected;
- the economic activity is development efficiently;
- the condition of equity among the individuals and groups is respected both at present and in the future. The four pillars of durable development were identified as being:
  1. the environment pillar;
  2. the economic pillar;
  3. the social pillar;
  4. the institutional pillar.

The durable development results from the convergent efforts of economy, policy, protection of environment agriculture, the creation of a balanced system of sharing the material wealth. As concerning the general situation of Romania there are known the existence of some laws, of some strategical and operational plans elaborated in the spirit of durable development.

The measurement of the sustainability of the Romanian rural space can be done with the help of some indicators promoted and used by the International Bank of Reconstruction and Developments and European Union. One of the most complete lists of indicators belongs to U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development. This list comprises a number of 100 indicators which refer to all the aspects related to the environment. Among these proposed indicators there are:

- *The Index of Human Development* which comprises: expectation of life, degree of education, purchasing power;
- *Wealth of Nations*: This indicator is calculated on the basis of the human natural capital and on the product. Watching the fluctuation of the capital you can determine if there is any social and economic progress registered;
- *Ecological footprint*.

These indicators must be adapted to the geographical and economic conditions of Romania and we propose for them:

- the income per inhabitant;
- the degree of using the local resources: land, labour power, other resources ;
- the quantity of ecological products for each inhabitant;
- the value of the activities in rural tourism;

- the degree of education of the rural population;
- the birth rate and expectation of life;
- the purchasing power.

To know the elements of sustainable development and the tendency to globalize the world economy requires the study of all the possibilities concerning the creation of an agriculture which can lead to the assurance of the principles which characterize the two concepts.

In this context the durable agriculture developed so that it allows to get the self-sufficiency of food simultaneously with the maintenance of the potentiality of agricultural provisions for a long period of time.

Sustainable agriculture is a system which can assure a decent level standard of living for the agricultural producer and which is capable to produce for the next generation.

The economic growth characteristic to the Romanian rural space can be achieved on the ground of the multiple function of agriculture. The amplification of functions of agriculture by completing the activities of production with those of supply, processing, marketing, sale and also by diversification of other activities permits the creation of the conditions of increasing and combining the people's income and on this basis the support to the space.

In this given context created by the increase of competition on the international agricultural markets of the technological modernization and of the new community regulation it is naturally imposed the growing of the level of competitiveness of the Romanian agriculture and the level of the rural development too.

The agricultural products obtained in Romania and the varied structure of these reveal the fact that our agriculture by the compared advantages is competitive and not complementary European Union. The concern of the entrepreneurs should be oriented towards the capitalization of these advantages so that they can reach the community food market. The main measures which are meant to restructure and develop the agricultural production according to the market principles were identified:

- Technical modernization and efficient organization of agriculture by forming the system of viable agricultural farms;
- Extension and development of organic farms which use nonpolluting technology to obtain ecological products without being noxious;
- Organization of functional branches on products based on contracts or by horizontal

and vertical integration of an associative type;

- Resolving the fundamental problems of supply of the population of the country with enough products of good quality and at accessible prices coming mostly from the internal production;
- Offering priority to obtain the qualitative parameters of the process of production and of the products based on the implementation the scientific research and the support to the agricultural system of education as a logistic support of competitiveness.

The development of durable agriculture should be put in harmony with the general development of the rural space. Among the measures of rural development we can mention:

- achieve investments in the agricultural farms for mechanization and constructions and constructions;
- the improvement of the system of processing and marketing the agricultural products so that it can arrive at a high level of competitiveness of the products and of added value of the growth and varying the population income by stimulating the marketing of the obtained products of creating new jobs for the rural population of assuring the existent markets and the new markets with products of high quality according to the demands of consumers ;
- diversification of the economic activities others than those agricultural to make the young people settle in the rural space and the increase of the income of the inhabitants developing the touristic offer of the rural space, developing the services, encouraging the appearance of small and medium-sized enterprises to transform and capitalize the local resources (wood, stones, natural or artificial lakes);
- developing the rural infrastructure.

The objectives of these measures are:

- to improve the access of the inhabitants to the public network of roads of the village, whole country, and of rail-ways;
- to create private medical clinics in the rural space and to strengthen those already existing providing the necessary equipments;
- to automatize the fix telephony cables in those place to make possible the phone calls in the country and abroad;
- to develop the education system in kindergartens and making it compulsory;

- to promote and develop the system of education in primary and middle schools and to attend them as modern institutions equipped with modern technology and extra-materials of good quality, well equipped laboratories and gym –halls.

The modernization of agriculture and rural space by the exposed measures aims at the ways of developing the durability. To form some efficient agricultural structures and to create the necessary frame for the competitiveness of economy of the farms are objectives of the process of agricultural reform in Romania.

## CONCLUSIONS

European Union develop a common policy of the rural development which to a great extent is controlled by the countries members of it.

Romania has view the intensification of the activities of rural development especially of agriculture which contributes to the development of the national economy. The main objectives that aim at the development of the Romanian rural space are: increase the competitiveness of agricultural zone by stimulating the restructure, the development and innovation; to improve the protection of the environment and of the rural space; to increase the income by developing the local and regional income: to strengthen the familial farms, developing the cooperation among farms and cooperatives organized in the domain of supply and marketing the products, to modernize the production technology, the growing of labour productivity forming and improving the

management of the agricultural farms; to improve the social conditions of the individuals and of the farms (decent living conditions, the growing of the level of general and professional preparation, the changing of the social position of the members of the society, the connection to the information with economic character, social insurance); to encourage the diversification of the economic activities, others than those of agriculture.

To obtained the proposed objectives some important financial and human resources must be alone.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dobre, Iuliana, 2003** - *Management of production in agricultural farms*, ASE Publishing House, București.
- Dona, I., 2006** - *Rural Economy*, Ceres Publishing House, București.
- Drăghici, M. and collab., 2003**- *Rural Space. Definition. Organization. Development*, Mirton Publishing House, Timișoara.
- Istudor, N., 2006**- *Regional and Rural development of Romania in the context of integration in European Union*, ASE Publishing House, București.
- Rădulescu, Carmen-Valentina, 2007**- *Regional and Rural Development*, ASE Publishing House, București.
- Oțiman, P.I., 2005**- *Durable rural development of Romania in the context of European integration(I)*, Rev. Academică, Nr.43.
- Pele, Gh., 2009** *Agro-systems in Western Romania and durable development in Agriculture (TD)*, Oradea, p.4.
- \*\*\*- *National Programme of Rural Development, 2009-2013*.
- \*\*\*- [www.acad.ro/com2005/pv1031/Oțiman.doc](http://www.acad.ro/com2005/pv1031/Oțiman.doc)(p. 2-3).