PERSPECTIVES FOR MODERN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA

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Abstract

To understand the importance of this work, we must understand the importance of agriculture, in the Romanian space, in particular. Agriculture, as a primary field of activity including plant cultivation and animal husbandry, is a major sector of the national and global economy. Therefore, agriculture has to obey any rules, objectives and institutions that govern the economic system as a whole, whereas it is itself a distinct system that is interconnected with other subsystems within the economy. Modern agriculture begins in a research station, where scientists have access to the necessary supplies, expertise, and corresponding time. But, when the package is awarded to farmers, even the best farms cannot compare with the results we get as researchers. The basic challenge for modern agriculture is to sustain a better use of internal resources available in Romania. Presently, information in agriculture at the decision-making level comes from suppliers, researchers and private entrepreneurs rather than from local sources. However, the use of local information can minimize the use of external inputs, lead to more effective regenerating, or combine both. Modernization of agriculture presumes to be sustainable, economically viable, and socially responsible, protect resources, and serve as a basis for future generations. For this work, we have consulted some of the most important research literature, periodicals, scientific papers, technical and economic documentation, and other sources.

Key words: perspective, agriculture, modern, sustainable, Romania

At this stage, our world is characterized by fierce competition for economic supremacy, of excesses in the exploitation of nature followed by unpredictable disturbances for existence and health bodies, including humans, in such a complex socio-economic system, it becomes imperative to change the conception of the use of natural resources in general and, in agriculture in particular.

In the context of Romania’s economic integration into the EU economic system, reforms are necessary for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), in order to ensure food security for humans and animals, and to develop new perspectives and possibilities for reform application.

This should allow the use of resources, in favorable economic conditions, to comply with the principles of environmental protection and the final consumer (man), and with the principles that define quality of life in general.

This work proposes the study of aspects on policy of integration of Romanian agriculture in the West, and attempts to develop viable solutions capable of ensuring the functionality and efficiency of their practice.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The basis from which we began this research included the principles and analysis of production in agricultureand the policies on land market.

Analyzing field reality, we concluded that the methods of structure, the forms of organization in agriculture and the axes of their financing, underpin a new vision in agricultural development.

Thus, to achieve the objectives of this paper, the working method used was as follows: data collection, analysis, processing and interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Modern agriculture begins with the new vision of development policy administration (figure 1). Development efforts should focus on improving the institutional environment, through education and creation of market infrastructure, using new production technologies, and the creation of financial instruments. Influential international institutions, including the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, Consultative Group on International Agricultural,
suggest that the best way to ensure public food is to continue modernization of agriculture.

The concept of modern agriculture should not be regarded as a source of industrialized degraded, but supplemented by support, alternation, regenerative nature, constant and low external power. The modernization would like agriculture to become a competitive economic sector, even in Europe. Agriculture will be involved in the production of high quality food products, the conservation of natural landscape, and the development of tourism as an additional source of income.

Development of sectors agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry and food, and overcoming structural problems will lead, in the medium and long term, to increase competitiveness and quality of life. Modernization is envisaged to reduce the number of people practicing subsistence agriculture, by creating a legislative framework providing for the establishment of specialized institutions, at government, to manage funds for agriculture. Thus, components can be simplified and can avoid errors.

Another modern development solution, represents smallholder association and structural reform, by transforming subsistence farms into commercial farms; the principles should be oriented with the market economy, profitable viable farms and the economy, and consistent with environmental protection.

Agricultural Cooperative, similar to Western Europe, may be a modern development perspective. In Romania, so far, no co-created structures exist similar to those of old EU member states. Obviously there are no representation structures. The lack of a clear attitude of the political class, to be reflected in appropriate legislation, to stimulate the creation and development of cooperative, could mean for 65% of Romanian agriculture, not only reduces the opportunities to benefit from European funds, but also creates further deterioration of the situation from the application of regulation Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) since 2013.

Agricultural cooperative can develop only if the economic, legal and social environment, is one that would facilitate the emergence and development to sustain a direction to help develop agriculture. The logical order of things recommended is first the creation of this environment, where the agricultural cooperative could bring benefits to rural area entities the cumulative economic component of the society.

In our opinion, such a cooperative environment where the concept of agricultural development would likely exist, can form only if clear rules are promoted on the organization, operation and control for important segments of the agrarian economy. Measures of organization and systematization of agricultural land, specialization and the development of agriculture credit structures, conditions for credit guarantee, and of insurance against natural risk factors, and training on the product channels for the functioning of food, could define a normal economic environment for the development of agricultural cooperatives.

In 2007, 29.4% of all holdings in the EU27 were in Romania; this highlights the high degree
of fragmentation of agricultural holdings and stresses the need to establish agricultural cooperative.

The analysis of existing public data, in 2010 that fewer than 10 members of cooperatives, and the country’s total number of associate producers of the agricultural cooperatives was around 1000 people, working in 149 cooperatives (table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. CRT.</th>
<th>County / (No. counties)</th>
<th>No. agricultural cooperatives / county</th>
<th>Total agricultural cooperatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CJ, NT, TL, HD, VS (Nr.=5)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>GL, BT, GJ, CS, BN, GR (Nr.=6)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>IS, PH, AR, SB, MS, MM, VL, MH, AB, CV (Nr.=10)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>BC, SJ, HR, IF, TM (Nr.=5)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>BV, AG, BY, SM (Nr.=4)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>DJ, BR, BH (Nr.=3)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SV, DB, IL (Nr.=3)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>CL, TL (Nr.=2)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>OT (Nr.=1)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>VN (Nr.=1)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>CT (Nr.=1)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most existing cooperatives are established on the principles of cooperative, motivation not functioning in this structure, and therefore there is no organizational performance. Cooperative structure on production activities reflects a very different coverage (table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. CRT</th>
<th>The main activity</th>
<th>No. of coop.</th>
<th>Nr. CRT (cont)</th>
<th>The main activity</th>
<th>No. of coop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Vegetable production (including greenhouses)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Growing potatoes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Crop production (cereals)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pig farming</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Beekeeping</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sheep breeding (sheep milk processing)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Slaughter / meat processing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cattle (production / milk processing)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Snail farming</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Other cooperative agr. production (mixed vegetable, animal), processing, trade, etc.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Agricultural services</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>TOTAL agricultural cooperatives 31.XII.2009</td>
<td>149</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another workable solution for modernizing agriculture is the agricultural research. Currently information on the performance of agricultural products comes from private investors, suppliers, from private researchers and other foreign sources, but not from Romanian institutions financed from state budget and local authorities. Institutions research funding in agriculture, livestock, piscioi, forestry and food, and funding research in universities and specialized agricultural is a solution of perspective that should start the modernization of agriculture.

The educational role of agriculture for developing, involves funding research in this area; the opposite we have the results, which we have to take into consideration. Also, there is a need to refocus research topics; they must provide high value biological products, raw materials, technologies, appropriate knowledge that contribute to agricultural modernization.

There are EU rules on subsidies for lands that are made or maintained in good agricultural and environmental conditions. We propose to stimulate their cultivation into the national agricultural policy, which must exist. The vision of funds should be more restrictive and turns to active farmers.

Cap subsidies to farmers are not yet completed. Supporting manufacturers and maintenance of the population in rural areas is the opposite of a company pay capital which investing in agriculture. Therefore, we believe that a middle way to set some limits could be explored. It means that financial support should
be found to distribute as fair and transparent without forgetting that there are large firms that contribute to food production. For this there may be other instruments, not direct subsidy of hundreds of thousands of euro. For example: subsidized loans, investments, promotion of products on the market, etc.

A modern vision for agricultural development, applicable in crisis, is the private storage. Means of action when a food crisis in Romania are limited. The only solution remains private storage support. The same measure can be achieved by creating tools to intervene in support of farmers.

Agricultural storage may prevent prices falling below the intervention price market, ensuring a guaranteed minimum price to producers. In principle, storage of agricultural products may be subject to exceptional measures: public storage, withdrawal from the market, the resale on the community market or sale outside the EU. In addition to these four destinations surplus agricultural products may be exceptional measures: sale on the community market at reduced prices or even selling products free (especially in the context of humanitarian or educational) and external termination, under food aid programs or intergovernmental agreements.

Prolonged use of natural resources leads to depletion of ground water (groundwater). The greenhouse effect has become more pronounced and it leaves its mark on the low level of water in dry periods when the need for water in agriculture is the largest. In our opinion, we must create a system to manage the water cycle. (Ex: regeneration of urban water, construction of artificial lakes that are fed by natural rainfall, especially in mountainous regions where rainfall is higher, etc.)

All weather conditions require eliminating the risk of hail. Modernization of agriculture proposes the creation of platforms with hail rockets, especially in the basins of vegetables, fruit and wine, major cereal and exclusive areas.

One cannot talk about modernism without preserving traditional values. We refer here to traditional agricultural products that are regionally specific (Example: cheese in fir bark, rozinci wine, spirit tree, honey, etc.). These products should be encouraged and supported through sales partnerships on markets, for local communities nationally and internationally, and should be chosen as commercial targets.

Forests have a significant role in agricultural business. In this respect we propose to provide support for afforestation, improving and expanding the economic value, diversifying production and by opening new market opportunities, such as renewable energy, while maintaining a sustainable management, and respect for the multifunctional role of forests.

GMOs enjoy a contradictory development, from the spectacular offensive years “80-90 to the more or less categorical rejection of recent years. In our country, activities involving genetically modified organisms, obtained through modern biotechnology, are subject to special treatment of regulation, authorization and administration according to Law No. 3 of 2008. These activities include: the contained use of genetically modified organisms, introduction into the environment and the market of genetically modified organisms, import organisms / genetically modified organisms.

These activities should take place only in conditions of environmental protection, and human and animal health, because biotechnology will be the future global agricultural production factor of progress, and everything that is produced in agriculture.

CONCLUSIONS

Modern agriculture does not require using the latest technologies in the field and the most expensive inputs. A modern agriculture is sustainable agriculture, which governs over all economic systems. A modern agriculture is one that understands the importance of plants and animals for human life.

The concept of modern agriculture involves changing the mentality of those who practice agriculture, and the legal system. Efforts to develop agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry and food, should focus on institutional reform. This includes education and creation of market infrastructure, the use of new techniques and production technologies, and the creation of financial instruments.

The association of small owners and structural reform is a prerequisite for agricultural modernization by transforming subsistence farms in commercial farms. It must be oriented to a market economy and to the establishment of national agricultural cooperatives, and the development for each region separately.

The educational role of agriculture for development involves funding research in this area; the opposite we have the results, which we have to take into consideration. Also there is a need to refocus research topics; they must provide high value biological products, raw materials, technologies, appropriate knowledge that contribute to agricultural modernization.
Supporting producers should be as fair and transparent as possible, without forgetting that there are large firms which are contributing to national food production.

Private storage is a necessity because the remedies of Romania in a food crisis are limited. It also may prevent the market price decline below the intervention price, ensuring a guaranteed minimum price to producers.

Platforms for hail and water use management in agriculture are essential for modern agriculture. Taking into consideration the climate change, they should be focused on these issues to avoid crises.

Maintaining traditional values (agricultural products) are the opposite of genetically modified organisms. In our opinion, we believe that traditional values provide an agricultural market image. By creating partnerships for sales of agricultural products nationally and internationally, it adds value and confidence to Romanian agriculture.

We encourage the biotechnology sector, because we believe that this will be the future of world agricultural production, and increasing productivity in agriculture means, but we emphasize that they must take place only in terms of environmental protection, human and animal health.

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