STUDIES CONCERNING RESULTS OF PRODUCTION AND ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL IN THE AGRICULTURE OF GALAŢI COUNTY

STUDII PRIVIND REZULTATELE DE PRODUCŢIE OBŢINUTE ÎN CULTURA PLANTELOR DE CÂMP DIN JUDEŢUL GALAŢI DUPĂ EXTINDEREA UNIUNII EUROPENE

IUROAEA Gh.*[1]*, CHIRAN A.[2]
e-mail: achiran@uaiasi.ro

Abstract. *The process of integration into the European Union allows access to various european funds, targeted to raise the living standards of the rural population in general, but especially for farmers. This process marked a new stage in our country's agriculture. Thus, Romania has to adapt to the European model of agriculture that is based on competitiveness, market orientation, environmental protection, integration of agriculture with forestry and environment etc. In the economy of Galati county, agriculture occupies an important place due to the wide extent of arable agricultural land in general and in particular due to livestock and poultry, the land improvement, the supply with tractors and agricultural machinery. In Galati county agriculture, due to the fact that the arable land represents as much as 82.5% of all agricultural land, the most important crops are oilseed plants and grains. In animal husbandry, the largest flocks we encounter are cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry. An increase of economic efficiency in crop and animal production can be achieved by: obtaining high average yields, improving product quality, developing new storage spaces and ensuring competitive selling prices, promoting new investments in crop and livestock through accessing grants, bank loans and other sources. Attracting funding is an opportunity for farmers to develop and modernize their agricultural activities. Also, competitiveness in agriculture can be achieved through developing multifunctional agricultural holdings oriented towards the competitive market through an association and cooperation of farmers to access grants directed at upgrading and modernizing production and processing the raw materials.*

Key words: agriculture, results, opportunities, indicators, finance

Rezumat. *Procesul de integrare a României în Uniunea Europeană permite accesarea diferitelor fonduri europene direcţionate pentru ridicarea nivelului de viaţă a populaţiei din mediul rural, în general, dar, mai ales, pentru producătorii agricoli. Acest proces, a marcat o nouă etapă în agricultura ţării noastre. Astfel, România trebuie să se adapteze la modelul european de agricultură ce se bazează pe competitivitate, orientarea spre piaţă, protejarea mediului înconjurător, integrarea agriculturii cu mediul înconjurător şi cu silvicultura etc. În economia judeţului Galaţi, agricultura ocupă un loc important, datorită ponderii ridicate a terenului agricol, în general şi arabil, în special, a efectivelor de animale şi păsări, a amenajărilor de îmbunătăţiri funciare, a dotării cu tractoare şi maşini agricole. În agricultura judeţului Galaţi, ca urmare a faptului că terenul arabil ocupă 82,5 % din terenul agricol,*

[1] A.P.I.A. Galaţi, Romania
[2] University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Iasi, Romania

ponderea cea mai mare în structura culturilor o deţin cerealele boabe şi plantele oleaginoase. Creşterea eficienţei economice în producţia vegetală, se poate realiza prin: obţinerea unor producţii medii ridicate, îmbunătăţirea calităţii produselor, amenajarea a noi spaţii de depozitare şi relizarea unor preţuri de vînzare competitive, promovarea a noi investiţii în cultura plantelor, prin accesarea fondurilor nerambursabile, a creditelor bancare şi a altor surse. Atragerea finanţărilor de către producătorii agricoli este o oportunitate pentru dezvoltarea activităţilor agricole şi realizarea investiţiilor pentru modernizarea fermelor. De asemenea, competitivitatea în agricultură se poate realiza şi prin extinderea exploataţiilor agricole cu pluriactivitate, orientate spre piaţa concurenţială, prin asocierea şi cooperarea fermierilor în vederea accesării unor fonduri nerambursabile direcţionate spre retehnologizarea şi modernizarea fermelor de producţie, cât şi a celor de procesare a materiilor prime de origine agricolă.

Cuvinte cheie: agricultură, rezultate, oportunităţi, indicatori, finanţe

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The research was conducted for Galati county and targeted the analysis of crop production figures between 2004-2008 (Chiran A. et al., 2007). The analysis involved gathering and selecting information, drawing conclusions by analyzing and processing the primary information that was ordered, classified and intoduced in tables or figures and relevant schemes, resulting average values or values of the statistical indicators. The analysis used a system of indicators, of wich we mention: the cultivated surface and the structuring of crop types and crops; the average production per hectare; total production; the destination of production etc. The methods used were classical ones, such as: simple division; comparison; analysis of specific markers; the average pace, chain substitution, a.s.o.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

As a result of negotiations on Chapter 7 - Agriculture between the EU and the Romanian Government, Romania has achieved an overall EU budget allocation related to the CAP, of over 4 billion euros for 2007-2009 (Plăiaş I., 1997). These funds were divided between rural development, market support and direct payments.

This financial support has been allocated since 2007. It is an instrument of market intervention to stabilize the market prices by buying surplus production and storing it in public or private stocks. Refinancing for exported goods is granted only for certain products (milk and dairy products, beef, cereals, fruit and vegetables, sugar products, processed products etc.) or for the difference between the export price and the international price, given that agricultural prices are generally higher in the European Union in comparison with the world market.

The financial support for rural development from the EU budget represents a commitment of €2,424 million for 2007-2009. The required co-financing share of the national budget amounted to 25% (Neagu Cornelia, 2007; Zahiu Letiţia, 2006).

To stabilize the supply of main plant products, the strategy of sustainable development of agriculture and food for Galati county has set the following measures (Dima Fl.-M. et al., 2008):

- reducing the area planted with cereals by 3% annually;

- increasing the area cultivated with oil seeds by 21% and production by 48%;
- increasing the surfaces cultivated with leguminous plants;
- development of associative structures in the area of supply, sales and services;
- involvement of multi-professional organizations focusing on cereal products, oilseeds, leguminous plants and textiles, in drawing up norms specific to these cultures in accordance with EU law.

The county's agricultural area is 351,597 ha, of which 289,233 ha are arable. The main crops grown in the county are: cereal crops (wheat, rye, barley, oats, maize); technical crops (soybean, sunflower, canola, mustard, sugar beet, tobacco, grown sorghum); pulses grain (beans, peas); potatoes; vegetables (tomatoes, onions, cabbage, peppers, root); melons and fodder plants.

Table 1

The growth rate of cultivated areas (% compared to previous years)

Specification	2005/2004	2006/2005	2007/2006	2008/2007	2008/2004
Cereal grains-sum	-0.71	-7.07	5.02	-7.82	-10.68
Wheat and rye	-4.30	-32.23	-6.00	28.46	-21.69
Autumn barley and spring barley	50.86	-41.41	67.85	30.08	93.00
Grain maize	-1.34	9.74	6.14	-21.48	-9.76
Grain vegetables	12.35	-19.11	3.88	22.06	15.24
Shelling	227.43	-40.54	11.82	38.62	201.77
Beans	-2.96	-13.96	2.57	19.06	1.95
Oil plants	-6.11	25.28	-18.39	31.53	26.26
Sunflower	-7.49	18.52	-16.28	29.84	19.19
Soy	4.69	72.25	-28.46	40.97	81.87
Plants for other industrial processing	42.14	76.49	-77.07	-74.28	-85.20
Sugar beet	69.71	92.01	-80.33	-86.13	-91.11
Tobacco	-25.57	-10.42	-37.93	-29.17	-70.69
Potatoes	-1.86	-3.98	4.90	-5.21	-6.30
Summer Potatoes	11.19	-1.16	-7.10	-24.05	-22.46
Vegetables- sum	-2.00	-3.14	-2.78	4.97	-3.12
Tomatoes	-4.62	-6.24	-6.05	3.83	-12.77
Dried Onion	-10.91	1.05	8.20	-1.17	-3.74
Cabbage	1.44	2.54	-0.99	8.51	11.75
Peppers	3.63	-5.69	-14.22	5.23	-11.78
Roots	18.95	-0.77	6.19	13.84	42.69
Forage plants-total	4.14	3.36	8.37	-4.68	11.18
Perennials - old and new	0.48	6.74	10.04	-4.87	12.27
Alfalfa	5.13	4.87	11.40	0.25	23.13
Annual hay and green mass	16.33	-4.90	-0.66	-17.40	-9.22
Plants for silage	-24.36	-29.96	-26.74	40.15	-45.61
Fodder roots	-22.77	-12.82	-12.50	-46.22	-68.32

By analyzing the dynamics and structure of the main groups (table 1), we find the following aspects:

- in 2008 compared with 2004, the area planted with cereal grains decreased by 10.68 %, due to the influence of the barley area that increased by 93.0 %;

- area occupied by group of grain leguminous plants increased by 15.24 %, as a result of increasing the surface cultivated with shelling (+ 201.77 %) and beans (+ 1.95 %);

- the subgroup of oil plants had an upward trend, the total cultivated area increased by 26.26 % because of the extension of sunflower areas (+ 19.19 %) and soy beans (+ 81.87 %);

- the area occupied by the technical plants for other industrial processing subgroup followed a downward trend, so that, compared to the reference surface, in 2008 the reduction was 85.20 % as a result of the negative influence of the area occupied by sugar beet, which decreased by 91.11 % and by tobacco, (-70.69 %);

- the decrease of the potato crop was less dramatic (- 6.3 %) and it was due to the obvious reduction of the area occupied by autumn potatoes (- 22.46 %);

- the area planted with vegetables had a slightly downward trend (- 3.12 %), tomato, dried onion and pepper surface reduction having a predominantly negative influence, whereas in the case of sprouts and roots the influence was positive;

- the group of forage plants presented a slightly increasing trend (+ 11.18 %) due to the extension of "old and new perennial plants" and "annual plants for hay and green chop", whereas other forage crops (corn for silage and roots for fodders) had a negative influence by reducing cultivated areas;

-in structure, averaged over the period under review (2004-2008), the first place is taken by the group of grain cereals with 67.4 %, followed by the oilseeds subgroup with 17.5 % and by forage plants with 4.8 %, etc.

- in 2008, grain weight was reduced to 62.7 %; in contrast, the share of oilseeds increased to 20.7 %, and forage plants actually remained at the same level (4.74 %) etc.

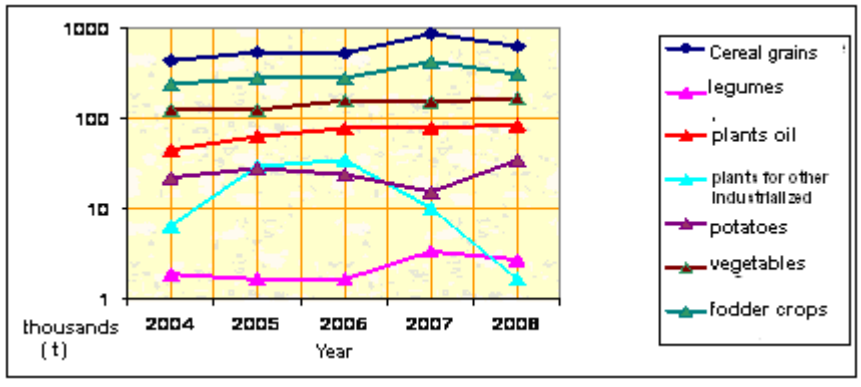

Fig. 1 - Evolution of total production

The data presented in figure 1 show that, between 2004-2008, for some species the total production had an upward trend, while for other species, the trend was downward. Thus, for pea beans, maize, sunflower, root vegetables, cabbage, soy, alfalfa green, tomatoes, dried onions, beans, potatoes, autumn barley, spring barley and peppers, the total increase ranked between 265.3 % (pea beans) and 3.3 % (peppers).

Table 2

Growth in average production / ha (% compared to previous years)

Culture	2005/2004	2006/2005	2007/2006	2008/2007	2008/2004
Wheat and rye	-23.51	-57.92	210.71	9.31	9.31
Autumn and spring barley	-33.68	-27.09	79.18	-23.66	-33.86
Maize grain	73.65	13.73	37.26	-14.91	130.67
Peas	-26.17	41.42	41.42	-18.01	21.06
Beans	-28.48	16.67	32.77	13.83	26.11
Sunflower	42.87	15.00	21.42	-16.97	65.65
Soy	35.90	-29.62	11.77	3.08	10.19
Sugar beet	176.67	-38.98	77.85	-16.47	150.79
Tobacco	0.64	-6.00	12.10	-39.73	-36.09
Autumn potatoes	25.48	-12.48	77.66	-22.99	50.24
Tomatoes - total	5.69	42.48	39.69	-27.62	52.24
Dried onions	-3.44	7.96	46.63	-12.49	33.76
Cabbage	12.61	11.07	19.94	0.82	51.25
Peppers	-9.92	25.90	1.07	3.40	18.51
Root vegetables - total	1.39	29.70	10.29	-11.90	27.77
Old and new perennial plants	15.03	-2.41	-32.96	78.89	34.64
Alfalfa	16.36	-2.45	7.36	10.65	34.84

Thus, the data presented in figure 1 reveals that in 2008, compared with the reference year, only five crops (root vegetables, dried onions, sunflower, cabbage-total and annual of hay and green mass), the total production had an upward trend; as for the other crops, the total production decreased between - 36.9 % (tobacco) and - 33.86 % (autumn barley and spring barley). The causes which generated this situation are related to the development areas grown and the average yield per hectare (Chiran A. et al., 1997; Gavrilescu D., 1996).

As far as the evolution of the average production per hectare is concerned, it was different for the main crops in the county of Galati (table 2). In 2008 over 2004, of the 17 cultures analyzed and two groups of crops, only tobacco and barley decreased, while for the other cultures, the trend was upward, with figures ranging between 9.31 % (wheat and rye) and 150.79 % (sugar beet) (Chiran A. et al.,1998; 2007; Gavrilesc D., 1996; Mateoc-Sîrb Nicoleta, 2002).

CONCLUSIONS

1. By analyzing the structure of crops in the period 2004 to 2008, it can be concluded that the variety of crops which have optimum conditions in the area, allow farmers to choose divesified crop structures, adapting to market demands. The hilly terrain allows the full mechanization of agricultural operations using modern heavy duty equipment. However, during the period under review, the areas planted in Galati county had a tendency to decrease, the most dramatic reductions occurring in tomatoes, green corn mass, beans, soy etc.

2. Of the 17 main crops analyzed, only seven crops (root vegetables, tomatoes, dried onions, corn silage, wheat and rye, cabbage and sunflower), the average yield had a positive influence on the evolution of total output, while for the other crops, whose production per hectare was decreasing, the influence was negative.

3. For Galati county, the increase of the share of vegetables in the daily human diet is expected to be quite significant, this presently being only 23-25 %. The general objectives of vegetable crops aim to bring it to the standards of the new European market, which requires the coexistence of three strategies: *"conventional" technologies, "rational" technologies, "green" technologies*. The need for modernization and development of the agricultural production by expanding the share of horticultural production, will lead to a diversification of the vegetables assortment, in the two large pools of vegetables: Tecuci and Galati.

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