THE PERSPECTIVES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN ROMANIA

PERSPECTIVELE AGRICULTURII ORGANICE ÎN ROMÂNIA.

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Abstract. *The roots of organic vegetable growing cannot be separated from those of organic agriculture in general. Organic agriculture (ecological, biological) had appeared as a reaction to the industrial agriculture, "intense uncontrolled" which had the following effects: the reduction of soil productivity caused by erosion; organic matters and nutrients loss; the pollution of surface water with sediments and chemical products that materialized later in a reduction of biological activity from soil, an increased resistance for chemical products used to control pests, pathogens and weeds; the useful flora and fauna destruction and the reduction of its biodiversity by using pesticides etc.*

Rezumat. *Rădăcinile legumiculturii organice nu pot fi separate de cele ale agriculturii organice în general. Agricultura organică (ecologică, biologică), a apărut ca o reacţie la agricultura de tip industrial, "intensiv necontrolata", fapt care a determinat: reducerea productivităţii solului prin eroziune, pierderea substanţei organice şi a elementelor nutritive; poluarea apei de suprafaţă cu produse chimice şi sedimente fapt ce s-a concretizat ulterior în reducerea activităţii biologice a solului; creşterea rezistenţei la produsele chimice de combatere a dăunătorilor, agenţilor patogeni şi buruienilor; distrugerea florei şi faunei utile şi reducerea biodiversităţii acesteia prin utilizarea pesticidelor etc.*

The term of "ecological agriculture" do not mean strictly "ecological", but a generous form of agriculture that combines the principles and techniques of biodynamic, organic, biological agriculture (Munteanu, 1999). So, an obligatory dimension of biological agriculture in the presented context is its ecological characteristic that consolidates or establishes the agricultural ecosystem reconstruction and maintenance quality. In fact, the measures for ecological protection ensure the system sustainability – a major goal of ecological agriculture (Toncea, 2002).

THE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE EVOLUTION

Undoubtedly, the organic/ecological/biological agriculture is now one of the most dynamic agricultural systems, especially in Europe (Stoian, 1999).

At the end of 2005, the areas used for ecological agriculture in the world were about 52 millions hectares, while in Europe were 6,5 million hectares (with 20% higher than in 2004). A situation of ecological agriculture is presented in *Table 1*.

The market for organic products in Europe had developed based on ecological food consumption consistency and field cultivation with the view of obtaining ecological products.

In Europe, in 2005 the organic marketing explosion amounted to 8 billion pounds. The main reasons for this development were the interest for health and environment protection and social and economical benefits.

Table1

The situation of ecological agriculture in Europe (FIBL, 2006)

Country	Year	Area (hectares)	% of total area	Number of organic farms
Albania	2004	803.95	0.07	57
Austria	2004	344,916.00	13.53	19,826
Belgium	2004	23,728.00	1.70	712
Bosnia/Herzegovina	2004	310.00	0.01	122
Bulgaria	2004	12,284.00	0.23	351
Croatia	2005	7,355.00	0.23	265
Cyprus	2005	1,017.96	0.71	225
Czech Republic	2004	260,120.00	6.09	836
Denmark	2004	154,921.00	5.76	3,166
Estonia	2004	46,016.00	5.17	810
Finland	2004	162,024.00	7.31	4,887
France	2004	534,037.00	1.80	11,059
Germany	2004	767,891.00	4.52	16,603
Great Britain	2005	690,270.00	4.39	4,010
Greece	2004	249,488.0	2.72	8,269
Hungary	2004	128,690.02	2.19	1,583
Iceland	2004	4,910.00	0.22	25
Ireland	2004	30,670.00	0.70	897
Italy	2004	954,361.00	6.22	36,639
Latvia	2005	43,901.99	1.77	1,043
Liechtenstein	2004	984.00	26.40	42
Lithuania	2005	64,545.00	1.86	1,811
Luxembourg	2004	3,158.03	2.49	66
Macedonia	2005	192.46	0.02	50
Malta	2004	13.00	0.13	20
Moldova	2005	11,075.00	0.44	121
Norway	2004	41,035.00	3.95	2.484
Poland	2004	82,730.00	0.49	3,760
Portugal	2004	206,524.00	5.42	1,302
Romania	2004	75,000.00	0.51	1,200
Serbia/Montenegro	2004	20,541.52	0.37	3,000
Slovakia	2005	93,943.00	4.19	218
Slovenia	2004	23,032.00	4.55	1,568
Spain	2004	733,182.37	2.87	16,013
Sweden	2005	206,579.00	6.80	3,138
Switzerland	2004	121,387.00	11.33	6,373
The Netherlands	2004	48,152.00	2.49	1,469
Turkey	2004	108,597.00	0.26	12,806
Ukraine	2005	241,980.00	0.58	72
TOTAL		**6,500,365.30**	**2.21**	**166,898**
U.E.		**5,853,910.37**	**3.42**	**139,930**

In Romania, the introduction of Government Urgent Injunction 34/17.04.2000 and the establishment of National Authority for Ecological Products (NAEP) represented concrete steps that had made ecological agriculture more dynamic.

Now, Romania has an adequate law system for obtaining (in optimal conditions) Bio products:

- Urgent Injunction of Government 34/17.04.2000 modified and completed with Urgent Injunction of Government 62/06.09.2006 regarding ecological agroalimentary products;
- The Government Decision 917/2001 regarding application norms of U.I. 34/2000;
- The Minister Disposition 417/110/2002 modified by Disposition 317/190 from 28 June 2006 regarding ecological agroalimentary labelling and the use of mark "ae";
- The Minister Disposition 153/2003 regarding import/export rules for ecological agroalimentary products;
- The Minister Disposition 527/2003 regarding the inspection and certification of ecological agroalimentary products;
- The Minister Disposition 20/2006 regarding the support for ecological vegetal production.

Table 2

The evolution of certified areas in ecological agriculture from Romania

Specifications	MU	Accomplished					Estimated
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total area from which:	Ha	28,800	43,850	57,200	73,800	110,400	170,000
Cereals	Ha	8,000	12,000	16,000	20,500	22,100	34,000
Fodder crops and meadows	Ha	14,000	20,000	24,000	31,300	42,300	50,100
Oleaginous and proteic plants	Ha	6,300	10,000	15,600	20,100	22,614	51,000
Vegetables	Ha	100	700	200	300	440	560
Fruits	Ha	0	50	100	200	432	540
Forest fruits	Ha	100	300	400	500	17,630	26,000
Other crops	Ha	300	800	900	900	4,884	7,800

Source: MAPDR

Table 3

The evolution of ecological certified vegetal yield

Specifications	MU	Accomplished				
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total area from which:	to	24,400	32,300	30,400	55,590	131,898
Cereals	to	12,500	15,000	14,400	30,500	55,000
Oleaginous and proteic plants	to	7,200	11,000	12,480	37,000	45,600
Vegetables	to	4,000	7,000	2,000	3,000	7,200
Fruits	to	0	200	300	800	1,000
Forest fruits	to	400	300	320	4,500	16,748
Other crops	to	300	800	900	1,200	6,350

Source: MAPDR

Reffering to the destination of ecological products obtained in Romania, it may say that in 2006 almost 38% of vegetal yield was exported while 62% was distributed on intern market.

Recent studies of Romanian Academy, quoted by BBW, estimates that in Romania every year will be selled ecological agroalimentary products to the sum of almost 2 milions euro (almost 1 % of total agroalimetary market).

The actions for promoting the ecological agriculture concept in Romania will be accomplished through consultancy and extension, training and education, research/funds reception from sectorial projects (OM 662/2006).

The opportunities for ecological agriculture development in Romania are determined by:

- productive and fertile soils;
- chemicalization and technology had not reached the level from the industrialized countries;
- the traditional romanian agriculture is based on “clean” technologies;
- there is the posibility for determining ecological areas, unpolluted where it could be applied the practices for ecological agriculture;
- the ecological agriculture may become an important source for rural workforce;
- comparative and competitive advantage with conventional production.

CONCLUSIONS

The national development plan for ecological agriculture from 2007 to 2010 has two major objectives which are determined by quality and quantity.

The qualitative objective is based on ecological agriculture placement in the centre of romanian agriculture as a motor of durable agriculture justified through:

- economical viability in creating a market with an important potential for development;

- the guarantee of production process and in according with environment practices;

- the sale of products at prices with 20 to 60 percent higher than conventional products;

- professional trainings for young people with low investments capacities.

Quantitative objective is influenced by areas increase in ecological agriculture, as following:

- 2007 → 250.000 ha (1.70% of agricultural areas);
- 2010 → 400.000 ha (2.72% of agricultural areas).

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