

THE ORGANIZATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES IN TELEORMAN DISTRICT

ORGANIZAREA, IMPLEMENTAREA ȘI DEZVOLTAREA SERVICIILOR ÎN AGRICULTURA JUDEȚULUI TELEORMAN

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Abstract. *Teleorman district has a convenient geographical position regarding the major development of agricultural activities. Agriculture represents an important field in the economy of this district, being represented in all 97 places, where most of the labor manpower is in this specific field. What is characteristic for this district is the vegetable production, orientated especially towards the cereals culture, the oleaginous plants, the forage plants and vegetables.*

For the organization and development of the agricultural field in Teleorman district it is needed a better implementation of all services that take part in the modernization of the exploitation and obtaining a growth in the quantity and quality of production. The accommodation of the structure of cultures to the requests of the market, the acquisition of technical advanced systems, the implementation of credit services, the development of the irrigation system, are only a few important direction for the agriculture of this district.

The implementation of the services in the agriculture of Teleorman district lead to the amalgamation of the fields and the appearance of some commercial exploitations with vegetal, zoo technical or mixed profile.

Rezumat. *Județul Teleorman beneficiază de o poziție geografică favorabilă dezvoltării majore a activității agricole. Agricultură reprezintă un important sector al economiei județului fiind prezentă în toate cele 97 localități, în care cea mai mare parte a forței de muncă fiind ocupată de acest sector. Caracteristic județului este producția vegetală, orientată în special spre cultura cerealelor, plantelor uleioase, plantelor de nutreț și legumelor.*

Pentru organizarea și dezvoltarea sectorului agricol din județul Teleorman este necesară o mai bună implementare a tuturor serviciilor care să contribuie la modernizarea exploatațiilor și obținerea unor creșteri calitative și cantitative de producție. Adaptarea structurii culturilor la cerințele pieții, achiziționarea de sisteme tehnice performante, implementarea serviciilor de creditare, dezvoltarea sistemului de irigații, sunt câteva direcții importante pentru agricultura județului.

Implementarea serviciilor în agricultura județului Teleorman a condus la comasarea terenurilor și apariția unor exploatații comerciale cu profil vegetal, zootehnic sau mixt.

Sited in the Romanian Field, only 80 kilometres away from the most crowded foodstuff markets of the capital, Teleorman county is geographically favourable to the development of agricultural activities. The relief of the county consist mainly of plains with a mean elevation of about 100 metres. The soils of the county are chernozems (54% in the south of the county) favourable to a performant agriculture, but there are also soils sărace in humus and nutrients (brown reddish forest soils) situated in the north of the county. The climate is to a certain extent favourable to many crops, but the high frequency of the years with drought and extreme temperatures results in a low productive potential in comparison with the agricultural potential. The main irrigation source is the river Danube, as well as the irrigation arrangements in the county territory and under SNIF management.

Provided these characteristics, agriculture is an important sector in the county economy, being practiced in all 97 localities of the county, most labour being active in this sector. The county is focused on crop production, especially grains, oily plants, forage and vegetables.

Teleorman county has 499184 ha of agricultural land out of which 454.872 ha account for arable land.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This paper resulted from a good collaboration with Teleorman County Bureau of Agricultural Consultancy. The data were gathered from the territory, from agricultural companies and then they were organised and processed.

The monitoring of the sown surface and of the obtained yields is done in the statistical papers AGR 2 A – sown surface and AGR 2 B – sown surface and obtained yields, this task being completed by DADR according to the Protocol between MADR and National Statistics Institute.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the autumn of 2007 the land use was the following: rape 32532 ha, barley 17045 ha, wheat 185.952 ha, two row barley 4923 ha, forage 2352 ha, other crops 758 ha.

The total surface sown was of 243562 ha, 11681 ha more than in the autumn of 2006.

The crop with a significant increase with respect to the program is rape, also due to the increasing use of biofuels. The granted financial support was welcome in the production cycle, given the weather conditions extremely unfavourable for crops in 2007.

Table 1

The cultivated surface and the obtained yield for the main crops is as Follows

| Crop | | Year 2006 | Year 2007 |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Wheat + rye | Surface | 192.462 | 188.604 |
| | Mean yield | 2.498 | 1.100 |
| | Total yield | 480.853 | 207.491 |
| Barley + Two row barley | Surface | 16.429 | 21.959 |
| | Mean yield | 2.282 | 1.215 |
| | Total yield | 37.491 | 26.674 |
| Corn | Surface | 93.389 | 70.706 |
| | Mean yield | 3.372 | 523 |
| | Total yield | 314.913 | 36.959 |
| Sunflower | Surface | 78.524 | 66.213 |
| | Mean yield | 1.511 | 474 |
| | Total yield | 118.687 | 31.412 |
| Soy beans | Surface | 4.110 | 787 |
| | Mean yield | 1.677 | 701 |
| | Total yield | 6.894 | 552 |
| Rape | Surface | 4.303 | 22.240 |
| | Mean yield | 1.593 | 1.245 |
| | Total yield | 6.853 | 27.684 |

In order to perform mechanized tillage, the farmers in Teleorman use agricultural tractors and machines as follows:

- Tractors – 7.367
- Disk harrows – 3.952
- Ploughs – 6.263
- Small grain sowers – 1.841
- Row crop sowers – 1.956
- Cultivators – 1.573

The agricultural loan for production is an economic-financial instrument of agricultural policy which sustains current activities of agricultural production.

Farmers, legal entities or individuals, who legally use agricultural fields or livestock in order to obtain agricultural production for trade can benefit from the advantages offered by Law of Agricultural Credit. If the aforementioned

people take a loan and reimburse it at the deadlines set by the bank, the state grants MADR „subsidies” which are called public funds and represent percentage quota from the loan taken and reimbursed. Another regulatory document covered the diesel subsidy to perform mechanized tillage for crop establishment in the spring of 2007. The beneficiaries of the support are legal entities and/or individuals provided at art.6 in O.U.G. 123/2006, and in order to be eligible, the applicants need to prove the use of the tract of land as owner, tenant, franchiser or in other forms of association.

Table 2

Husbandry in Teleorman county has the following stock in 2006 and 2007.

| Specification | 2006 | 2007 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total cows | 57.667 | 58.083 |
| Out of which core | 38.609 | 39.404 |
| Total pigs | 119.207 | 114.514 |
| Out of which core | 9.899 | 8.230 |
| Total sheep | 134.657 | 153.906 |
| Out of which core | 111.010 | 111.559 |
| Total goats | 38.023 | 43.755 |
| Out of which core | 30.072 | 35.073 |
| Total poultry | 2.654.884 | 3.075.388 |
| Out of which egg laying | 1.597.984 | 1.432.300 |
| Total horses | 27.858 | 28.552 |
| Out of which mares | 8.076 | 8.436 |
| Bee families | 29.530 | 32.164 |
| Rabbits | 2.661 | 1.744 |

The purchase of diesel 1 leu cheaper resulted in a total saving of 6.453.250 lei for the farmers in Teleorman county, in 2006, and respectively 1.421.020 lei in 2007. To benefit from subsidies grant from state budget so as to cover expenses necessary for the activities of land improvement, legal entities or individuals that own tracts of land in irrigation systems can establish an organization of land improvement.

Out of the surface of 95.000 ha arranged for irrigation and with functional infrastructure, Teleorman had 28.560 irrigated ha in 2006, and 30.695 irrigated ha in 2007.

The subsidies benefiting those who applied at National Agency for Land Improvement in Teleorman and who also asked for water were the following:

- 2006 = 8.568.000 lei,
- 2007 = 11.971.050 lei.

In order to benefit from subsidies, farmers need to be organised in agricultural units. Agricultural units are those represented by economic agents, namely a legal entity, an individual or a group of legal entities and/or individuals.

In 2007 countywide the following units were registered according to their domain:

1. Trade units with crops = 353 units with a surface of 171.455 ha.
2. Trade units with livestock = 97 units (mainly sheep = 3.047 heads and 42.147 pigs, hives = 7.529 fam.).
3. Mixed trade units = 110 units with 14.588 ha; 124.249 goats + sheep ; 2.396 pigs; 18.460 fam hives and 67.526 poultry. Total trade units in 2007 = 560 units.

CONCLUSIONS

- Teleorman county has the third largest agricultural surface in the country, with 499184 ha, agriculture being an important sector in the county economy

- Characteristic of the county is crop production, focused on grains, oily plants, forage and vegetables

- The endowment with agricultural tractors and machines enables farmers in Teleorman to establish agricultural crops at the right moments required by the technology of each crop.

- Yearly physical-chemical analyses are performed for wheat breeds. The quantity was 1.398 kg/ha smaller than in 2006, but the quality was superior, almost all the amount of wheat being bakeable in 2007.

- Little rainfall and temperatures exceeding normal thresholds in the winter, spring and summer of 2007 resulted in smaller yields than in 2006: 1.398 kg/ha smaller in wheat; 1.067 kg/ha smaller in barley; 2.849 kg/ha smaller in corn; 1.037 kg/ha smaller in sunflower; 348 kg/ha smaller in rape.

- Two Government Orders, 636 and 1202 respectively, declared the year 2007 hazard for crops established in the autumn of 2006 and the spring of 2007.

- The maximum amounts of money granted by the Romanian state for the crops established in the autumn of 2006 were of: 750 lei/ha (wheat, rye, triticale), 700 lei/ha (barley, two row barley), 600 lei/ha (rape). For these autumn crops, the agricultural farmers in Teleorman submitted files and requested the amount of 24.725.353,9 RON, representing losses on 80.166,72 insured ha. All 491 applicants were granted the requested money.

- For the crops established in the spring of 2007, the maximum level of damages was as follows: 750 lei/ha (corn), 700 lei/ha (sunflower). For 54.173,94 insured ha cultivated with corn and sunflower 24.435.709,59 lei was requested, out of which 14.500.000 lei went to those affected by drought.

- The advantages offered by the law of agricultural loan mounted to 1.865.135 lei in 2007.

- The purchase of diesel 1 leu cheaper resulted in a total saving of 1.421.020 lei in 2007 for the farmers in Teleorman.

- The subsidies benefiting those who applied to National Agency of Land Improvement in Teleorman and who also asked for water were of 11.971.050 lei in 2007.

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