

ANALYSIS OF OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS IN THE SWINE SECTOR IN WESTERN ROMANIA

Diana MARIN*

**Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Timisoara,
Faculty of Agricultural Management, ROMANIA
Corresponding author: Marin Diana e-mail: diana_rachiciu@yahoo.com*

***Abstract:** Sector growth and exploitation of pigs in the Western part of Romania has undergone deep changes since the abolition of agricultural cooperatives , privatization and/or bankruptcy livestock farms. Its recovery is evident through a growing trend as far as pork production in the area analyzed is considered, by modernization efforts of a large number of operating farms.*

***Keywords:** opportunities, risks, swine, Romania*

INTRODUCTION

Raising pigs is an ancient occupation of the people having a crucial role in ensuring the meat in the world population (over 80% of the world population appreciate its qualities and consumes it) [1,4]. In the last century, thanks to the achievements of science and technology in this area it have been produced important changes, it has been moved from small production to large-scale production, due to the concentration and specialization of agricultural production, perfecting it so, also the raising and exploitation systems of animals, in specialized units [2,3].

In our country there are conditions for the development of growth of this species, especially due to the existence of an safe exploitation base and to the large demand that enjoy products obtained by industrial or traditional processing of pork meat[5].

In order to obtain high returns, pigs made fattening must achieve large increases of weight, with a low consumption of feed per 1 kg gain, to have a high efficiency in cutting and superior quality carcasses. These requirements depend on a number of factors: race, age at start fattening animals, health, sex, quality and quantity of food, care and housing conditions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To achieve this scientific approach we undertook research into the production of meat from pigs obtained from small, medium and large, scale we also analyzed the processing level of this kind of meat but also the ways and places to exploit both the pork as and processed pork products, meaning that I realized studies in supermarkets and wholesale markets.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SWOT analysis indicates also, the scale of necessary adjustments that will get strong the competitive position of the sector of pork, both on the local and national market. Opportunities exist in all parts of the chain to improve competitiveness in terms of productivity and equally important, of the quality. At farms level, opportunities for improving efficiency and quality must mainly be funded in a better genetic material but also in the feeding practices and general care improved. Investments, either from its own resources or by assisting investment in animals, animal housing and handling of food, will positively affect production and productivity. Pork industry sector is characterized by a series of parallel chains for the supply of meat, which were developed in accordance with the mode of production and/or sale.

Table 1

Opportunities from the swine breeding sector from Western area of Romania

OPPORTUNITIES
<p>Small and medium scale production</p> <p>a) Development of a commercial sector of small and medium producers (eg. 20-200 breeding pigs) that works with high levels of technical efficiency and motivation to improve competitive conditions within the sector.</p> <p>b) Improving feed efficiency by providing advice and training on appropriate feeding plans, production and storage of feed and productivity monitoring.</p> <p>c) Improving the quality of pork by providing advice and training (through the organization of local special courses by agricultural rooms of localities that are part of the counties analyzed) on hygienic conditions and procedures.</p> <p>d) Improvement of genetic material, animal shelters and feed through investment deposits.</p> <p>e) Improving the dissemination of high quality suitable genetic material among small-scale production units.</p> <p>f) Improving horizontal connections between small and medium producers to enable them to reach a scale compatible with the processing sector.</p> <p>g) Affiliation of farmers to different associations of breeders of pigs at 5 West region.</p>
<p>Commercial production of swine at large-scale</p> <p>a) Improving technical efficiency through training programs related to all aspects of caring for pigs. b) Improve business management skills through training.</p> <p>c) Improving quality by introducing a classification system based on carcass quality.</p> <p>d) Intensification of awareness of biosecurity risks and hazards through training regarding biosecurity systems and procedures.</p> <p>e) Improving waste management through a program of investment and regulatory standards.</p> <p>f) Improving knowledge's regarding the situation and market perspectives through access to information on the market.</p> <p>g) Improving technical efficiency by creating and disseminating a solid program of benchmarking</p>
<p>Processing level</p> <p>a) Improving the quality and efficiency of production by investing in modern technology.</p> <p>b) Product development through improved knowledge on market and consumer requirements.</p> <p>c) Assortment and improved quality of products, because demand is growing with the increase in consumer income.</p> <p>d) Increasing the efficiency through restructuring generated by market sector (mergers and acquisitions that gives the possibility scale production and specialization). Attracting foreign direct investment to support the development.</p> <p>e) Expanding markets through networks/partnerships with major retailers for purchase and distribution.</p> <p>f) Affiliation of processors to associations of pork producers at the level of the the western area of Romania</p>
<p>Supermarkets and major wholesale markets</p> <p>a) Provide opportunities for large-scale sales in a extensive market from geographically point of view</p>

Table 2

RISKS
<p>Small and medium scale production</p> <p>a) Lack of alternative employment opportunities in rural areas impedes restructuring of farms. b) Acceptance of low quality products (street markets) can undermine the efforts of to raise standards of pork production sector. c) Grant for slaughter potentially disadvantaging farmers who do not have own slaughter facilities</p>
<p>Commercial production of swine at large-scale</p> <p>a) Further market penetration by foreign suppliers. b) The outbreak of epidemics. -in 2007 appearance of swine fever in Timis and Arad County c) Lack of investment for the development of sector. d) Failure to accomplish the requirements of the Acquis (quality, hygiene, animal welfare etc).</p>
<p>Processing level</p> <p>a) Chains of retailers establish the quality and quantity; domestic industry can not meet these requirements, and increasing import penetration. b) Increase the consumer trends of consumption for products with a low fat content. c) High proportion of pork consumption achieved by sacrificing at home.</p>
<p>Supermarkets and major wholesale markets</p> <p>a) They import products increasingly more if they can not get from sources in the counties of western area in sufficient quantities and qualities</p>

CONCLUSIONS

We believe that improving the quality of pork by providing advice and training (through the organization of local special courses by agricultural of localities that are part of the counties analyzed) on hygienic conditions and procedures could play an important role in swine breeding sector development.

Possible risks in this area could be considered also the acceptance of low quality of products (street markets), this fact can undermine the efforts of raising standards of pork production while subsidies provided by the state for slaughter will disadvantage farmers who will not have their own slaughter facilities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. BLAIR L.A. și col., Swine production and management, Agriculture Canada, Publication 1442 E/ 1984
2. COROIU I., și colab., - Tehnici utilizate în aprecierea și creșterea suinelor, Editura Risoprint, Cluj-Napoca, 2002
3. CUC AURELIA, ROȘU I., POTECEA V., - Creșterea porcinelor de la A la Z, Editura Agrotehnica, București, 2006

4. PETROMAN I., CULEA C., MIRCEA N., PETROMAN CORNELIA, - Creșterea porcinelor, Editura Mirton, Timișoara 2002
5. PETROMAN I., PETROMAN CORNELIA, RACHICIU DIANA, Impact factors in the regulation of feed consumption in pigs exploited semi-intensiv, *Lucrări științifice Zootehnie și Biotehnologii*, vol 40 (2), „Creșterea animalelor în perspectiva unei agriculturi sustenabile ”, 10-11 mai 2007
6. www.timis.insse.ro