

PERSPECTIVES OF AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF RECAS

PERSPECTIVELE AGRICULTURII IN CONTEXTUL DEZVOLTARII RURALE A LOCALITATII RECAS

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Abstract: *The present paper studies the situation of agriculture in the area of Recas. We considered the cultivated areas, the yields obtained and especially the differences among the agricultural systems practiced by various agricultural firms, family associations and private farms. The high cost per hectare and small yields obtained are causes of economic losses for farms. The agriculture in the area of Recas has undergone structural changes, caused by a change in the form of land ownership. At present, we can find both subsistence agricultural systems and commercial ones, both being profitable from an economic point of view.*

Rezumat: *În această lucrare este studiată situația agriculturii în zona localității Recas. Suprafețele cultivate productiile obtinute si mai ales diferentele dintre sistemele de agricultura practicate de diferite societati comerciale cu profil agricol ,asociatii familiale si gospodariile private. Costul ridicat pe hectar și produțiile mici obținute sunt cauze de pierderi economice pentru gospodării. Agricultura în zona localității Recas, a fost supusă unor modificări structurale, datorate schimbării formei de proprietate asupra pământului. În prezent se întâlnesc atât sisteme agricole de subzistență cât și sisteme agricole de piață, rentabile sub aspect economic.*

Key words: *agricultural systems, private farms, agricultural firms, rural development*

Cuvinte cheie: *sisteme de agricultură, gospodării private, societati cu profil agricol dezvoltare rurală*

INTRODUCTION

One of the main resources of the rural community is land, and agriculture is a socio-economic activity that capitalizes these resources and produces economic goods which are necessary to society.

AFTER 1990, the agriculture in the Recas area has undergone some structural modifications, mostly by changing the form of land ownership. The private property of land is predominant. The small agricultural farms predominate. The economical power and the knowledge of the farmers are limited, the life expectation is short; all that put together made the majority of agricultural systems to be of sustenance.

At the same time, starting with 2005 we could see a greater involvement of the state, by giving subventions for the cultivation of various crops; this had an impact on the agricultural activity. Beginning with 2008, Romania has received money from the EU, approximately 80 Euro/ha: this money has also helped in setting up crops. The Romanian state has shown support for agriculture also by giving life annuity both to the people who rent the land and to those who sell it.

This has led in time to a concentration of lands under the control of agricultural firms and family associations, resulting in constantly higher yields; the climatic factors are the only ones that affect to a certain degree the yields obtained.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Evaluating the agriculture in Recas area was made based on study activity,

documentation and research in the perimeter of Recas under the aspects of productivity, areas of land tilled, and productions obtained among agricultural firms, family associations and farms. Evaluating the agricultural systems in the rural development framework of Recas was made based on study activity, documentation and research in the perimeter of Recas.

We analyzed the problems regarding the structure of crops and market elements, mostly the capitalization of yields.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Agriculture, representing the control of man over the food production, constitutes a fundamental socio-economic development that ensures the satisfaction of basic needs of humankind. The land in Recas area is favourable for a large variety of plants, but the financial power of small private farms is very low and because of that, the level of mechanization is almost inexistent and insufficient for performing high-quality agriculture. The land found of Recas totaled one area of 23.198,48 ha with large diversification of the categories of use, as shown in table 1.

Because the specialized knowledge is very poor, because there are some difficulties in the commercialization of agricultural products and also because of the reduced economical power of farmers, the main crops are cereals such as: wheat, corn, sun flower, barley, rape, fodder plants and vegetables. The cultivation of vegetables is made on small surfaces, and it is given up slowly because of capitalization problems.

Table 1.

The land found in the Recas area and distributions on categories of use

No.	Categories of use	Surface (ha)	%
	Total surface	11090	100
	<i>Total agricultural land</i>	<i>19,911.35</i>	<i>85.1</i>
	Out of which:		
1	Arable surface	13,112.12	56
2	Total grassland	3,934.68	16.9
3	Hay	878.86	3.9
4	Grape vine	1,762.96	7.5
5	Orchards	328.82	1
	<i>Total non-agricultural land</i>	<i>3,279.13</i>	<i>14.9</i>
	Out of which:		
1	Forests and bushes	1,886.58	8.12
2	Water and swamps	482.89	2.8
3	Unproductive land	164.27	0.8
4	Roads and railroads	518.89	3
5	Back-yards and constructions	395.38	2.4

Over time, the local exploitation conditions, associated with other problems characteristic for the period of transition that have a great impact on agriculture, have led to a reorientation of the locals away from agriculture, many have given up working the land. A part of the locals have sold their land or rented it to the agricultural firms that have appeared. However, a part of the population still works the land in individual systems where productivity and profit oscillate from one year to another.

By grouping the field units, we get the following dominant types of soil:

- Haplic Luvisols 40.8%;

- Eutric Cambisols 23.4%;
- Dystric Gleysols, Stagnic Cambisols, Haplic Phaeozems 4.7%;
- Pellic Vertisols 7.4%;
- Dystric Fluvisols 18 %;
- Eutric Regosols 7.3%;
- Anthropic Regosols 8.1%;
- Soil associations 0.3%;

As for the classification according to classes of favorability of the soil for agriculture, the situation is presented in the following table.

Table 2

Favorability classes of agricultural lands in the Recas area

No. crt.	Favourability classes	Surface (ha)	%
1	Class II	2953	14.8
2	Class III	8785	44.2
3	Class IV	586.5	29.4
4	Class V	231.3	11.6
5	Total arable	13.112	100

The production capacity of the types of soil presented above is influenced by a series of limitative factors. Among the most important are:

- Soil reactions, humus reserve, slope, phreatic-humidity excess which is accentuated by precipitations.

The culture structures have oscillated in time as we can see in the two following tables:

Table 3

Field crops in Recaş -2006

Crop	Surface (ha)
Two-row barley	200
Maize	3800
Wheat	2150
Oats	326
Vegetables	200
Sunflower	1000
Rape	150
Fodder plants	500
Triticale	30

(Source: Townhall of Recaş)

Field crops in Recaş – 2008

Crop	Surface (ha)
Two-row barley	950
Maize	4100
Wheat	2450
Oats	500
Vegetables	15
Sunflower	1100
Rape	260
Fodder plants	40
Triticale	100

(Source: Townhall of Recaş)

This crop structure oscillates year by year in close connection with the price of products. The average yields obtained on most crops are modest compared with the agricultural potential of the area. Raising domestic animals, such as hogs, sheep, chickens, in various numbers, completes the large range of local activities in the small private farms.

CONCLUSIONS

Agriculture in the Recas area has developed slowly but constantly for the past few years. The support for the local farmers, shown through programs initiated by the Romanian state and the EU, by subventions given in various forms and by giving the farmers access to structural funds represented by PHARE and SAPHARD has helped the local agriculture. Thus, the farmers have purchased more state of the art equipment, have fused lands to a certain extent, and have started practicing a type of agriculture that is very close to the intensive agriculture of the western-European countries, having all the benefices brought about by practicing such a system.

In the past, capitalization of the yields was a problem for the producer. Recently, this problem has partially been solved by direct commercialization to wholesale dealers, who, more often than not, have offered a fair price for the products. However, at the end of 2008, cereal purchase has almost stopped because of the world economic crisis, and the prices offered by those who still had the intention of buying were much lower than the productions costs. As a result, many producers were left with their yields or were forced to sell them for much less than they were worth, in order to have the necessary funds for setting up the next crops.

We hope this financial blockage will disappear, so that the development of agriculture in the area under research can continue its ascending trend.

Agro-tourism is also an important element that can develop in the area, especially in connection with viticulture.

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