

AGRIFOOD SECTOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR MEDIUM AND LONG TERM HORIZON 2020-2030

Adrian PARASCHIV¹

Scientific Coordinator: Prof. PhD. Elena CONSTANTIN¹

¹University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, 59 Mărăști Blvd,
District 1, 011464, Bucharest, Romania, Phone : + 4021. 318.25.64, Fax: + 4021.318.25.67

Corresponding author email: parachiv.adrianm@yahoo.com

Abstract

The agriculture constitutes an economic importance due to the products and services it offers to society and on which depends the standard of living of the population. But now, agriculture faces particular challenges due to demographic growth, the effects of global climate change and expanding urbanization. In these conditions providing the necessary food products requires appropriate policies and strategies to support this vital economic sector for society

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INTRODUCTION

The world economy has a structural transformation process, due to the emergence of new global challenges with long-term effect: global population becoming more numerous, increasing pressure on natural resources and global warming plus the aging of the population, obvious in Europe. All these issues have profound implications for agriculture and rural economy (MARD, 2015.).

Global demand for food is rising, increased urbanization, rising prices on inputs, pressure on water resources and increased vulnerability of crops and animals to climate change will limit food production. It is expected that global demand for food will increase by 70% by 2050 due to population increasingly numerous and increasing revenues. It is estimated that the world population will increase from 7 billion as is currently is, to 9 billion by the middle of this century, and 95% of this increase will occur in the less developed countries. Overall up revenue will be mostly associated with increased urbanization (expect 70% of the world population live in urban areas by 2050, up from 49% currently) and rapid economic growth in some of the most populous countries.

1. The role of irrigation in agriculture development strategy

By FAO estimates, 40% of goods from agricultural products in the world are obtained by irrigation but the technique irrigate cause high consumption of water and loss of large volumes of water during transport water for irrigated land which constitutes a potential danger soil degradation by secondary salting. Even so, climate changes that are being felt increasingly expose more land at risk of drought and desertification, irrigation being the only technical protection of these vulnerable lands (FAO Statistical Yearbook, 2013). Irrigation is needed and applies not only in arid and semi-arid areas of the globe, with rainfall less than 500 mm/year but also in the sub-humid, with rainfall of 450-700 mm and even wetlands to 1000 mm/year, where half of the year is deprived of rains. Given that over 75% of the land surface lacks sufficient moisture to ensure the water needs of crops and arid and semi-arid represents about 55% of the land, irrigation is the only technique that can sustain profitable agriculture and food safety population (Botzan M, 1966).

By definition adopted by the FAO, food security is the access physically, socially and economically for all human beings to sufficient nutrition, healthy and nutritious food to enable

them meet the needs and food preferences for a healthy and active life.

Food security involves:

- the existence of sufficient quantities of healthy food of adequate quality, which is a problem of agricultural production

- individuals and their households to have access to adequate food, which is a problem related to poverty

- food to be obtained in accordance with good agricultural and environmental conditions, which is a public health problem

Increasing the volume of agricultural products can be provided by the following means: increasing area of arable land, increase cultural intensity (frequency crops) increasing crop yields through modern technology, the irrigation has dominant role.

2. Strategic objectives regarding agriculture and rural development in the period 2020-2030

Romania should ensure that the agrifood sector have an sustainable and competitive character, centered on the export of products with high added value, resistant to global challenges, ensuring welfare and living conditions in rural areas close to urban ones.

Agriculture and rural development in Romania in 2030 aimed at achieving a level of coherence between agriculture, environment and rural development by harnessing smart and sustainable agricultural land, labor and capital (Elena Constantin, 2014).

Romanian farmer of the XXI century will need to be competitive in other economic activities, reaching the same level of welfare and similar conditions of life as residents of urban areas. Romania will ensure food security and become a major player in European and international agri-food trade. For this purpose will be approached the strategic objectives outlined below which aim increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector.

Strategic Objective No. 1: Accelerating structural transition to an economically viable agriculture in parallel with environmentally friendly agricultural practices and the gradual reduction of the workforce in agriculture.

Romania is one of the European countries with the most favorable pedo-climatic conditions for

obtaining agricultural production quality and in significant quantities, which can cover a significant share of the domestic demand for food and agriculture. Despite considerable potential yields of Romanian agriculture are modest, indicating use of factors of production is way below the optimal. Properly exploited, allows existing employment potential agricultural workforce in a more productive manner, thus contributing to record real progress towards reducing rural poverty and eliminating differences of income to those in urban areas.

Strategic Objective No. 2: Increasing coverage of food consumption from domestic production and agro food regaining net exporter status, in line with potential output and sectoral response to the growing demand for food worldwide.

Agriculture has become one of the sectors most vulnerable to climatic changes and estimates for the future that these trends will increase. The current irrigation system continues to face a number of issues, current location and technical state of irrigation infrastructure resulting in a high cost of water, which mainly commercial, large farmers afford, but it is prohibitive for small farmers. In addition to climate change, Romania faces several other environmental problems, highlighted by the deterioration quality of soil and water, in decades. Production of renewable energy from agriculture and areas of cultivated land in organic farming sector are increasing. These are areas that should be developed further in the future.

Strategic Objective No. 3: limiting carbon footprint of agriculture, promotion of organic agriculture and resistant to climate change, water management and encouraging adequate renewable energy production. GHG emissions from Romanian agriculture only slightly exceeds regional averages and the EU, because after 1990 experienced a substantial decrease (mainly due to a decline in the livestock sector). Agriculture generated 14% of total GHG emissions of Romania in 2010, while the regional average, and EU-15 and EU-27 was 10% in 2011 and 2012, GHG emissions from agriculture were raised to 18 942 Gg CO₂ equivalent, respectively 18 299 Gg CO₂ equivalent, down 53% and 55.21% compared to 1989. This decrease was largely determined

by the decline in the livestock sector but it was favored by reducing the area planted with rice and low use of fertilizers based on nitrogen.

Rural areas play an important socio-economic part in Romania, as it covers 87.1% of the territory, 45% of the population in 2012 produced 32% of gross value added and provide 42% of the total workforce. The share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in GDP was 4.9% in 2012. Romania is a predominantly rural country, where rural areas play an important socio-economic part. Romania is one of the less urbanized countries in the EU which makes the policies dedicated to specific socio-economic needs of rural residents to be essential. According to the OECD (which allows comparisons with the EU), 45.5% of the population is located in predominantly rural areas, 43.9% in intermediate zones, while only 10.6% live in predominantly urban areas.

Strategic Objective No. 4: Improving the living standards in rural areas, providing infrastructure and basic services comparable to those in urban areas, reduction of rural income differences between Romania and the EU average.

Faced with an aging population in course and in a process of decline, rural areas need consistent and sustained investment in infrastructure and services. This will help increasing the attractiveness of rural areas, especially for young and educated, which now represents almost half of employees in rural areas.

The exodus of young people and educated in rural areas will threaten the success of all other public policy interventions, together with economic stability and sustainability of rural areas. A rural zone thrives by motivating its active population, determined by the level and stability of its revenues and its ability to support his family.

Cross-cutting strategic objective No. 5: Developing partnerships for education / consulting, ICT, R & D and improving the performance of agricultural administration as the foundation for a competitive agriculture, knowledge-based.

In Romania nearly three quarters of the utilized agricultural area is worked by farmers without training, as opposed to 40% in the EU15. Low levels of education among those who work

Romanian farmland is one of the factors that hinders competitiveness. Therefore, it requires increasing the share of farmers with higher education levels than in present, so Romanian agriculture can make the transition to a knowledge-based agriculture. An important role returns both specialized education and vocational education of our targeting specific areas. The introduction of consulting and professional guidance is the transverse critical and mandatory orientation towards a knowledge-based agriculture.

In the context of climate change, there is a need for a new research in agriculture which allows the efficient use of natural and human resources, models of best practice and increasing agricultural productivity, knowledge transfer and promoting cooperation and innovation.

3. The financial support of rural development programs

For the period 2014-2020, the funds available under the CAP in Romania rises to about 20 billion euros (Table 1). This level is determined mainly by higher funds under Pillar 1, which has undergone a progressive introduction program lasting ten years, in 2007-2016.

Compared to the previous programming period, it is expected that the allocation for Pillar 2 (rural development) will be reduced by approximately 12.5% (1 billion euro). However, the biggest challenge for Romania was the use and effective absorption of these funds, as shown in absorption rate (EAFRD funds-71% committed and 44% paid by the end of 2012). But the situation in agriculture and rural development sector is better than that of sectors financed from structural funds and cohesion, where absorption rates for 2007-2012 were 12% and 70% paid contract. Despite initial difficulties, the absorption of these funds was significantly accelerated in recent years, and Romania has successfully secured the necessary public co-financing.

Table 1. CAP financial allocations in Romania in the period 2014-2020 (EUR million)

Year	Pillar I/FEAGA	Pillar II/FEADR
2014	1.428,5	1.149,8
2015	1.629,9	1.148,3
2016	1.813,8	1.146,8
2017	1.842,4	1.145,2
2018	1.872,8	1.143,6
2019	1.903,2	1.141,9
2020	1.903,2	1.139,9
Total	12.393,8	8.015,6

Source: R (EU) 1305/2013 Annex I and R (EU) 1307/2013 Annex III

CONCLUSIONS

The strategic directions will be materialized through plans and complementary projects whose synthesis will be found in the institutional strategic plan of MARD (strategic planning document prepared for successive cycles every 4 years) and will be operationalized through budgetary allocations own and attracted the MARD. The MARD

institutional strategic plan will be monitored (half) rated (annually) and adapted appropriately in the context of national and international policies. The success of the strategy is determined mostly by a correct approach of monitoring and evaluation stages of its implementation

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