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**Conference Paper**

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**Provided in Cooperation with:**

The Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural Development (ICEADR), Bucharest

*Suggested Citation:* Gimbășanu, Gabriela (2015) : The impact of the National Program of Beekeeping on the evolution of the beekeeping sector, In: Agrarian Economy and Rural Development - Realities and Perspectives for Romania. 6th Edition of the International Symposium, November 2015, Bucharest, The Research Institute for Agricultural Economy and Rural Development (ICEADR), Bucharest, pp. 377-381

This Version is available at:

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# THE IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM OF BEEKEEPING ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE BEEKEEPING SECTOR

GIMBĂŞANU GABRIELA<sup>1</sup>

**Summary:** *It is clear that the National Beekeeping Programme was a true support for Romanian beekeepers, contributing to the development of this branch of agriculture with important sums of money that they could access reflected both in the number of bee colonies and the quantity of honey valued. Continuing this program is essential for beekeepers because this is a costly occupation that requires a lot of knowledge in beekeeping, and is known that the bees are very sensitive.*

**Keywords:** National Beekeeping Programme, bee colonies, honey

## INTRODUCTION

Beekeeping, like sheep breeding is a traditional occupation in Romania, which is practiced in ancient times. In the last period, with the opening of new markets and opportunities for their honey, but also thanks to the support of the state budget and the European Union, this activity began to be increasingly practiced by Romanians of all ages.

Romania occupies a leading position in terms of annual production of honey, so in a classification made by the European Commission, our country is in 4th place in Europe, after countries like Germany, France and Hungary. Annually our country exports 60% honey from conventional beekeeping and over 80% of honey from organic beekeeping. Much of these amounts of honey go to Germany, Spain and in the Nordic countries.

With a total production of honey exceeding 20.000 tons, Romanian consumes on average annually under half a kilo of honey, while the average European amounts to a kilogram and a half, and the amount of honey consumed by a northern rises above 3 kilograms per year.

So far, Romania has benefited from three national programs of beekeeping that have supported the work of those that operate in the sector and encouraged this activity and among others. National Beekeeping Programme (NAP) 2011-2013 has enjoyed great success, so that the allocated funds were absorbed 100%, where the total support amounted to over 29 million lei. The money allocated by the NAP 2011-2013 aimed among others the purchase of medicines, nutritional supplements, stimulators, purchase of queen bees, of beehives and purchase physicochemical analyzes to prove the quality of honey.

Among the most important types of honey are obtained in Romania are: acacia honey, lime honey, rape honey, sunflower honey, honey; honey and honeydew honey lavender again. Of all these honeys, honeydew that is most difficult to obtain and therefore most expensive honey in the Romanian market. Honeydew honey is the purest, because it is collected from bee at high altitudes in the trunk of conifers located above the brow. Honeydew honey is recommended for consumption in winter because it strengthens immunity, treats anemia, colds, respiratory illnesses and stomach.

Statistical overview, the transaction number of bee colonies is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Institute of Statistics, the Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture, and the National Agency for Amelioration and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The researches were based on information that refer to the number of hives and natural honey production during 2007-2014, this information or obtained by the National Institute of Statistics and economic data on import and export of honey on Romania, this information can indicate the way of who the beekeeping sector can be developed in Romania.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The amount of financial support allocated from the state budget through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, allocated to the National Beekeeping Programme for the period 2014 - 2016 is 44,545,756.82 lei.

This stream from support provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, particularly through national programs Bee led the last 7 years, the number of bee colonies to grow rapidly, so that in 2007 their number was 982,368, while in 2014 it was 1,350,998, representing an increase of 37.52% compared to 2007.

The only region that registered an upward trend is represented by Bucharest-Ilfov region with a fall of 37%, so that an explanation for this decrease is that beekeepers preferred to carry on flocks of bees in places less polluted and less stressful for them and the disappearance of the areas where the bees could procure food.

Table no.1.

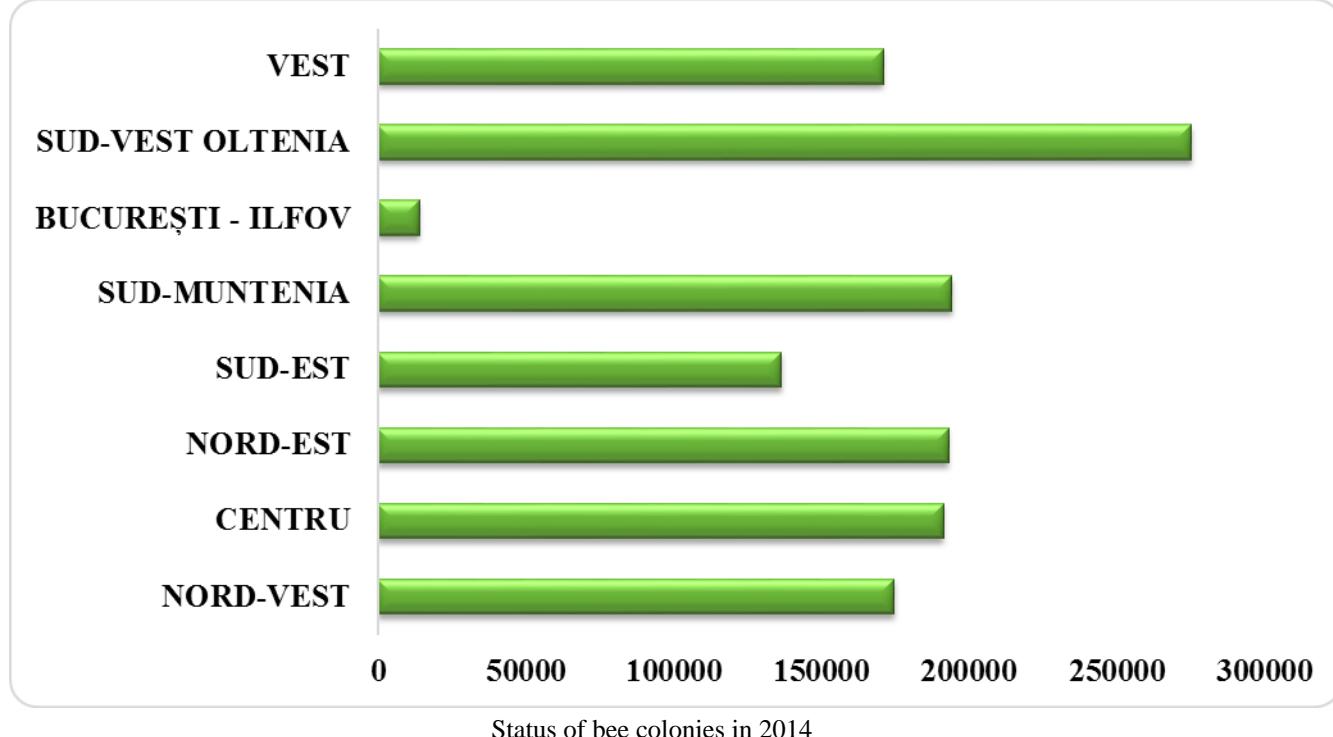
The evolution of the bees colonies in the period 2007-2014

Bees colonies	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	U.M Number of bees colonies							
Northwestern Region	128.863	126.541	129.207	170.269	162.294	162.351	170.933	174.834
Central Region	145.051	145.446	154.062	184.046	185.463	188.778	195.713	191.442
North East Region	138.702	138.247	143.653	178.685	170.837	170.731	195.333	193.306
South East Region	127.034	128.494	136.211	152.529	150.510	141.234	138.325	136.689
South Muntenia Region	145.949	150.878	164.742	193.084	184.822	185.561	192.110	194.209
Bucharest – Ilfov Region	22.444	21.870	16.072	19.207	17.752	18.882	18.248	13.959
South West Oltenia Region	141.516	145.373	173.917	197.052	209.892	218.345	270.707	275.499
West Region	132.809	141.510	139.322	180.045	168.040	168.157	172.849	171.060
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>982.368</b>	<b>998.359</b>	<b>1.057.186</b>	<b>1.274.917</b>	<b>1.249.610</b>	<b>1.254.039</b>	<b>1.354.218</b>	<b>1.350.998</b>

Source: National Statistics Institute;

If in 2007 the region with the largest flocks of bees was a South-Muntenia, in 2014 this changed, first place is occupied by the South-West Oltenia. In both regions were registered significant increases, only the South-West Oltenia presented a much higher growth than the South-Muntenia, from 2007 that first region showed an increase of over 33% and the other region over 94%.

Graphic no. 1.



In the year 2014 the largest flocks is in the South-West Oltenia region with 275 499, and the opposite is screened Bucharest - Ilfov region with only 13 959 bee families.

Increasing the number of bee families is not reflected as they should and natural honey production during 2007-2014. Relating to the year 2007, increased production of honey is only 7%, compared to the reported increase in the number of bee families (37%), taking the same reference.

Table no. 2.

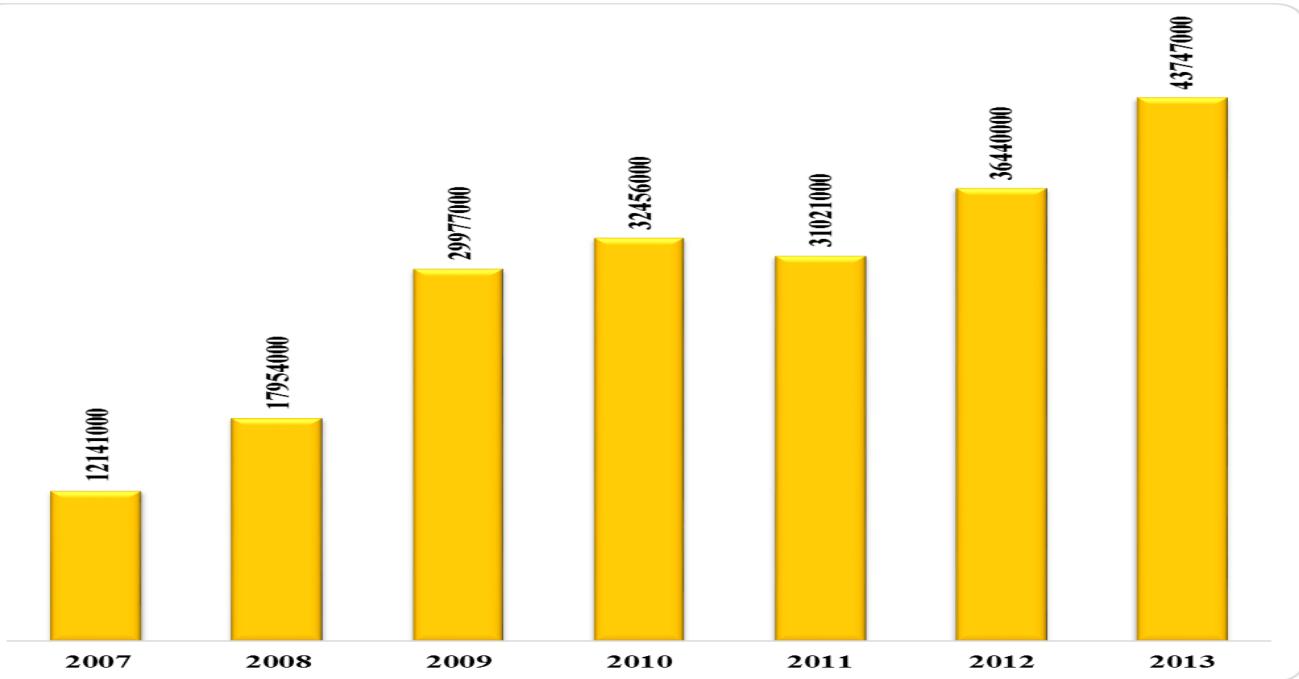
Production of natural honey during the period of 2007-2014

Development regions	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	U.M: Tons							
Northwestern Region	1.780	2.525	2.421	2.771	3.159	2.910	3.117	2.291
Central Region	2.627	2.982	3.207	2.891	3.466	3.354	3.958	2.533
North East Region	2.435	3.360	2.544	3.894	3.692	3.368	3.433	2.711
South East Region	2.334	2.464	2.553	2.650	2.728	2.922	3.130	2.246
South Muntenia Region	2.216	2.742	2.693	3.592	3.318	3.395	4.152	2.688
Bucharest – Ilfov Region	337	392	304	225	215	219	379	171
South West Oltenia Region	2.582	2.819	3.464	3.409	4.037	3.797	4.491	2.718
West Region	2.456	2.753	2.751	2.790	3.512	3.097	4.018	2.682
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.767</b>	<b>20.037</b>	<b>19.937</b>	<b>22.222</b>	<b>24.127</b>	<b>23.062</b>	<b>26.678</b>	<b>18.040</b>

Source: National Statistics Institute;

The region has experienced the most rapid decline was represented this time Bucharest-Ilfov region with a fall of over 90% reported in 2007. We can say that the region which found the highest production of honey was the Southern West Oltenia, which holds the largest number of hives. Reporting us at 2013, we can say that all regions recorded decreases of over 20% in honey production, and in some cases exceeded 50% (Bucharest-Ilfov region).

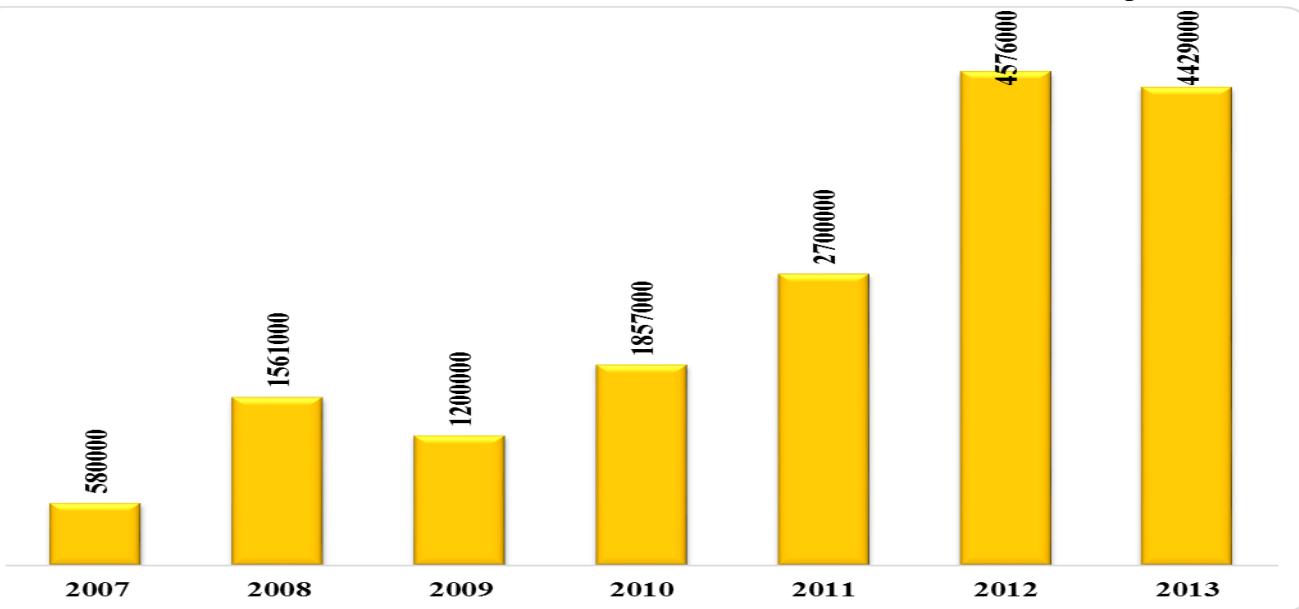
Graphic no. 2.



The evolution of export value of honey in 2007-2013 (EUR)

Exports of honey in terms of value registered a general upward trend, with a single fall recorded in 2011 (31.021.000 euros) compared to 2010 (EUR 32.56.000). The value of exports in 2013 was over 3 times higher than in 2007, registering a difference between the two periods of over 31 million. The growing demand for honey is provided by countries like Germany, Spain, especially Scandinavian countries who are big consumers of these products.

Graphic no. 3.



The evolution of import value of honey in 2007-2013 (EUR)

Compared to 2013, the value of imports is almost 10 times less than the value of exports. Even so, the evolution of imports recorded an upward trend, so if we compare 2013 to 2007, these values have increased over 7 times, from 580.000 euros (2007) to EUR 4.429 million (2014).

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is noted clearly upward movement of the number of bee families, with the National Beekeeping programs available to support beekeepers by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Note that it may see a decrease in the number of bee colonies during the National Beekeeping program begins and throughout there is an upward trend until the first year of future NAPs. Most likely the new National Beekeeping Programme 2014-2016 will record the same trend.

Once Romania joins the European Union and opening to new markets, exports of honey has increased, reaching in 2013 to over 43 million, largely due to importers represented by Germany, Spain, and especially large consumers of these products, namely the Scandinavian countries.

National Programmes Bee played a significant role in the evolution beekeeping exploitations, so that beekeepers were disbursed significant amounts of procurement, namely: for medicines and funds hives to control or funds hives antivarooa (100% of the purchase price of which VAT excluded) 72.79 Euro / pcs queen, 174.69 lei / pcs swarm combs, 349.37 lei / piece for beehives, 147.47 lei / pc purchase of hives to reform hives spent after their pastoral movement, but as the physico-chemical and certifying the quality of honey (which is the amount of VAT excluded).

We can say that in 2014 the number of beekeepers who have benefited from this support from the PNA was 5.391, organized into 143 associative, which were purchased 38 526 pieces of jelly, 23,297 pieces beehives, 19.71 pieces swarm package, 86,035 pieces hives, and 7 sets of physical and chemical analysis.

These decreases in quantities of honey unjustifiably long, reporting us that the number of hives has remained approximately constant, due justification beekeepers to develop a new national program beekeeping and the number of bee families would not be able to fall because they are conditioned by old programs to preserve a certain period of time.

In other words, the positive evolution of Romanian beekeeping is dependent to a very important support provided by the state through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

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