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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF VEGETABLE PRODUCTION BETWEEN THE PERIOD AFTER 1989 REVOLUTION AND THE PERIOD WHEN ROMANIA JOINED EUROPEAN UNION

DUMITRU EDUARD ALEXANDRU¹

Summary: *Romanian agriculture has been subjected to cyclical periods difficult enough over a short period of time. After the passing of the revolution, Romania has traveled through a difficult process of transformation and the results were not observed or are not seen, the evolution of Romanian agriculture continued with the period before Romania joined EU, during this period of time agriculture received financial suport, that was named SAPARD, but without visible results on the agricultural sector. Most likely this range of 2014-2020, is the last train that can save Romanian agriculture, if it wouldn't be taken seriously we won't get another chance.*

Keywords: *development of agriculture, the European Union, crop production.*

INTRODUCTION

After the 1989 revolution, Romania has entered into a comprehensive restructuring process, especially in agriculture, which has suffered through the destruction of the former forms of organization in agriculture (C.A.P), which culminated with the destruction of the main system of irrigation, things that contributed to high productions that Romania register itself with the pre-revolutionary period.

Once Romania joins the European Union in 2007, along with Bulgaria, besides opening new markets, the main advantage was the European funds (RDP 2007-2013) that both farmers and producer groups, they could access for upgrading and creating new agricultural activity. In light of these considerations it is necessary to identify the main vegetable crop yields compared between post-revolutionary period and the post-accession to the European Union and to identify measures that can help improve this aspect. Previously, Romania has benefited from European funds in the pre-accession, specifically between the years 2002-2007, with programs titled "SAPARD" that has being offered by the EU financial instruments for candidate countries in the pre-asccession in the field of agriculture and rural development.

Also the new National Rural Development Programme, developed for the programming period of 2014-2020, helps Romanian farmers and producer groups, in another form, but with higher amounts that are available, intended to support agricultural development.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research it is based on information of the production that has been obtained by Romania during the period of 1990-2014, using the data processing provided by the Romanian National Institute of Statistics, but also the date about the cultivated areas in the same period, making a parallel between the period after 1989, and the period after accession, since the year of 2007, taking into account certain factors.

In this category will be included land indicators to identify how the land is use, the area cultivated with various crops, and here it will be taken into account representative crops, crop production and the average productions per unit area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Before 1989, Romania was considered the "breadbasket of Europe" managed to register the most higher harvests in terms of quantity and the romanian farmes managed also to compete on an

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equal footing with countries with an entire experience and tradition in agriculture, such as France or Germany.

After the 1989 revolution, Romania has entered into a comprehensive restructuring process, both in general, but especially in the agriculture field, where the land that was abusively taken during the communist period, was restored to the rightful owners. With these formerly retrocessions, the land that was compact in the previous period, was chopped excessively, and it still remained one of the major problems of Romanian agriculture.

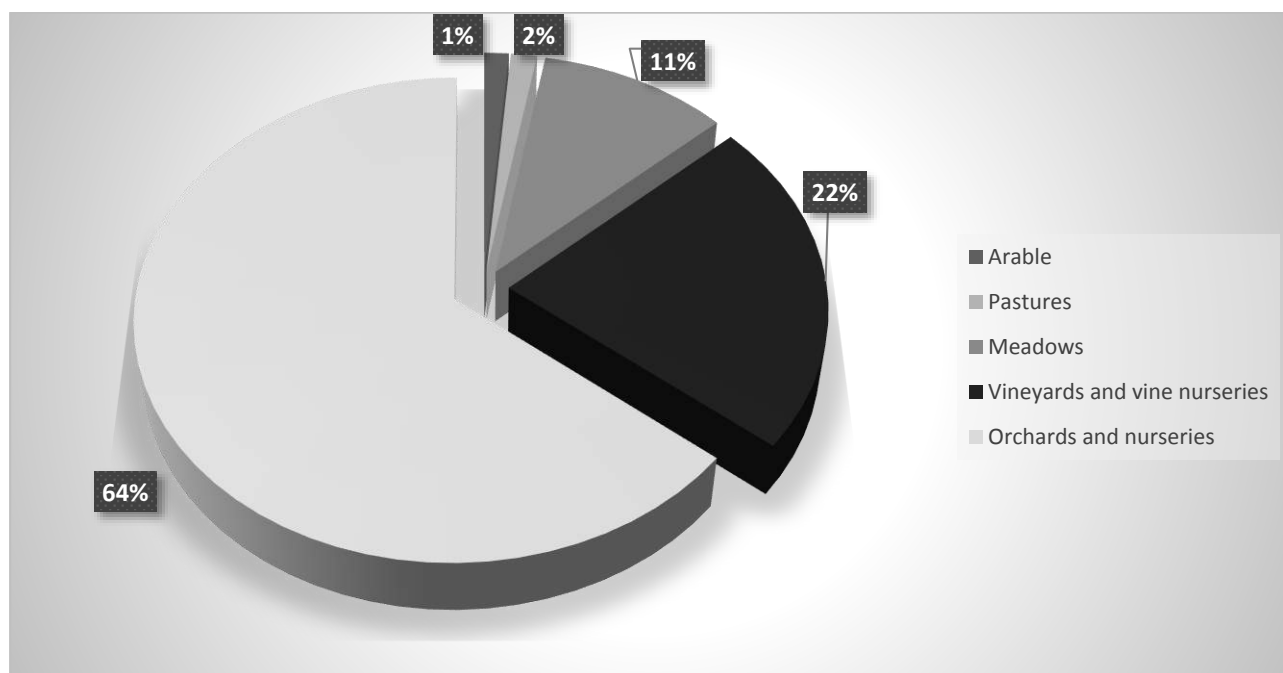
Another fact which contributed to a higher production in terms of quantity and quality was a principal system of irrigation, but after the revolution this irrigation system was left unattended and it was stolen by thieves, that is way in this moment the principal irrigation system it hardly exist. In the new National Programme for Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will facilitate the development of secondary irrigation systems, using sub-measure 4.3 - Investments for development, modernization or adaptation of agricultural and forestry infrastructure, where the projects can be funded up to 1.5 million euro.

To restore it primary system of irrigation Romania, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has submitted a project to the plane Junker (which provides for the establishment of a new European Endowment for strategic investments in partnership with the European Investment Bank), where he plans to obtain funding in the amount of one billion euros, an amount considered sufficient to restore the main irrigation infrastructure for all Romanian agriculture land.

Regarding the level of technology, Romania continued to use old Romanian tractor U650, until now. Although these, once Romania joined the European Union and the first measures where opened, measures that were aimed to support and encourage the Romanian agriculture, the park of agricultural machinery has been changed in well, so Romanian farmers have to buy new high performance machines, that support them to have very good yields per unit area, encouraging the reducing losses when it comes to production or the consumption of fuel of these machines.

In Romania, the farming land was located over the post-December period at around 14.6 million hectares, making a slight decrease compared to the period immediately after our country joined EU. Regarding how Romanian farmers use the land, this aspect remained unchanged, so that more of the agricultural area it consists of arable land 60%, followed by pastures and hayfields, with approximately 22% and 10% . At the opposite pole it lies the vineyards and vineyards nurseries and orchards and orchards nurseries.

Graphic no. 1



Share of agricultural land in Romania in 2013

Most of the arable land in the period between 1990 - 1997 and after Romania joined the European Union was occupied by crops wheat and corn, this crops also registered some fluctuation in terms of cultivated area. The market trends have influenced the cultivation of smaller areas or larger of main crops such like corn, or wheat, but a substantial change was recorded for rape, in 2014 the rape was cultivated on an area of over 400.000 hectares, compared with the period immediately following by revolution when this crop was cultivated on only 13.000 ha. This distribution played an important role both Romanian supplementing farming incomes, and at the all country level, because the selling price of rapeseed is quite high. In the year of 2013 the price of a kilo of rape was 1.57 lei. At the opposite it was placed the barley crop that in 1990, the cultivated area of barley was over 650,000 hectares, but in 2014 this area was it was reduced by half.

In the period that followed the revolution we find that generally, the evolution of the production that were obtained in the vegetable sector is one that was fluctuating, this aspect was directly influenced by the surface on which they cultivate each crop and the absence of irrigation systems that could contribute to achieve bigger and constant production. Also during this period it is found that corn and potatoes were the main source of food for the households in rural areas, and this would explain that the total production of corn and potatoes recorded levels throughout the country, much of this can be found in the private sector, contrary to the other crops like barley crop, where only half are found in privately-owned. In the case of rape, obtained privately-owned yields almost did not exist, at least until 1997.

Tabel no.1

Comparative evolution of total average production for the years 1990-1997 and the years 2007 – 2014

Main crops	Total average production for the years		The dynamics of productions
	1990 - 1997	2007 - 2014	The period after accession / The period after the revolution
	Kilo/ha	Kilo/ha	%
Total wheat	6.483.547	6.935.759	6,97
Barley	1.853.250	782188	-57,79
Oat	438.660	386.317	-11,93
Corn	10.526.237	9.954.697	-5,43
Sunflower	898.329	1.656.679	84,42
Rape	5.220	738.411	14044,64
Total potatoes	3.447.574	4.000.007	16,02

Source: NIS - Query TEMPO-Online

The comparison between the two periods analyzed in the case of barley, oats and corn is one situated on a descendent trend. One explanation would be: Romanian farmer reorientation to other more profitable crops due to higher sale price for sunflower and rapeseed. If the total average of rapeseed production in the period 1990 - 1997 was only 5.220 kilo, in the period immediately following the joining of Romania to the European Union the total production was situated at about 738 tons.

The obtained productions in wheat, barley, oats, maize and potatoes have remained relatively the same line, with production recorded immediately after the revolution obviously related oscillations, so that the problem of lack of irrigation systems remained until now. In terms of the culture of sunflower and rapeseed, the total production achieved are outstanding, trading culture whose price is much higher for other crops. In 1990 sunflower production was approximately 550.000 tons, while the end of 2014, it was nearly four times higher, exceeding to 2 million tons. So if the rape culture registered an production of only 10,800 tonnes in 1990, in 2014 the same production reached more than 1 million tons, registering an increase of nearly 100 times.

After the period after when Romania became a member of European Union, it can be noted that over 95% of total production registered throughout all the country was obtained in the private sector compared to the period 1990-1997, when much of the productions were obtained in the public sector.

Tabel no.2

The average of agricultural production per ha recorded in the period 1990 - 1997 or 2007 - 2014

Main crops	Total average production for the years		The dynamics of productions
	1990 - 1997	2007 - 2014	The period after accession / The period after the revolution
	kilo/ha	kilo/ha	%
Total wheat	2952.86	3346.57	13.33
Barley	3514.14	3494.29	-0.57
Oat	1707.00	2028.00	18.80
Corn	3555.86	4060.29	14.19
Sunflower	1432.57	1772.71	23.74
Rape	1195.86	2048.14	71.27
Total potatoes	13734.14	16776.29	22.15

Source: NIS - Query TEMPO-Online

In Romania the productions registered are heavily influenced by weather conditions, so that the construction of an mainly functional irrigation system is more than necessary. Regarding wheat, an average made between the average yields per hectares during the period 1990 - 1997 is somewhere around 3000 kg, compared to the period between 2007 and 2014 where the average is over 3.300, registering a production growth of over 13% in the period after accession to the period after the revolution.

The most spectacular increase was recorded at the rape culture, with over more than 71%, compared to the period after accession to the European Union (where average production during this period was 2.048 kg/ha) and after the revolution (where average production during this period was 1.195 kg/ha), followed by the average yield for sunflower (23.74%) and potatoes (22.15%). The only decrease in the production media developed between the average yields between the two periods under examination, is recorded at the barley culture, with a decrease of 0.57%.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Romanian agriculture has been subjected to cyclical periods difficult enough over a short period of time. After the passing of the revolution, Romania has traveled through a difficult process of transformation and the results were not observed or are not seen, the evolution of Romanian agriculture continued with the period before Romania joined EU, during this period of time agriculture received financial suport, that was named SAPARD, but without visible results on the agricultural sector.

Since 2007, Romania joined the European Union, along with Bulgaria. Also during this period it was drafted the National Rural Development Program, designed to support investment in agriculture, by grants. Of all the European programs available at the country level, one focused on agriculture has the highest absorption, however recordering a positive impact on Romanian agriculture.

On the other hand Romanian processors had to adapt to a new legislative regulations imposed by the European Union and were put in front with strong competitors that come form all Europe.

The new RDP 2014-2020 is still largely the same axis with the old program, but also bring several new aspects that are including: the reducing of bureaucracy, by removing the documents necessary to access grants and the opening of new measures to support the rebuilding the secondary irrigation system.

Unfortunately, if they do not invest in the main irrigation system, most likely secondary system will not have the expected goal through these measures. Another major issue is the level of

complexity of the feasibility study, on which the farmer receive the grants, and this study for a farmer with no education, seems impossible to write, and they are obligated to go to a consulting firm that will help the farmer to take the money form the EU. A reduction in the complexity of these feasibility studies could provide equal rights to each farmer who needs support.

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