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STUDY OF THE ROMANIAN SUGAR BEET MARKET IN THE PERIOD 2010-2016

BRĂTULESCU ALEXANDRA-MARINA¹, CREȚU DIANA²

Abstract: *Sugar beet is of particular importance in the root market, being a biennial plant grown for sugar production, also used in natural medicine, cultivated for its fleshy root used as a vegetable in the human diet and as a fodder plant. This paper analyzes the data on the evolution of sugar beet areas and production in Romania, as well as the sales price of sugar beet. Another aspect considered in this paper is the one related to the consumption of sugar beet in the period 2010-2016.*

Keywords: *sugar beet, food, prices, agri-food market*

JEL Classification: *Q 13, J 11*

INTRODUCTION

Sugar beet is the plant that provides exclusively raw material of good quality and high yield for the sugar industry in our country and throughout Europe. For sugar beet farming, requires special landscaping, crop maintenance and a deep radicular appliance, it is necessary to produce agricultural crops. Sugar beet is grown for roots, from which the main product is sugar, and as a by-product, molasses and borage, used in animal feed and for the production of ethyl alcohol. Sugar beet is a fodder plant of good quality and high yield for the sugar industry in our country and in Europe. Sugar and sugar products form a large group of foods that are characterized by high sugar content (sucrose, glucose), attractive appearance, sweet taste, different shades and pleasant flavor.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

As a method of analysis, the present paper analyzed the areas, yields, prices and sugar consumption in Romania, in the sugar beet culture in 2010-2016, so this is the main objective of this paper, to show the positive or negative evolution with the data provided by the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) using the quantitative and qualitative comparative analysis of data from the analyzed period 2010-2016.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the table below, we analyze the data on the evolution of Romanian beet cultivated with sugar beet, taking the time horizon of 6 years.

Table no. 1 - Data on surface evolution in Romania

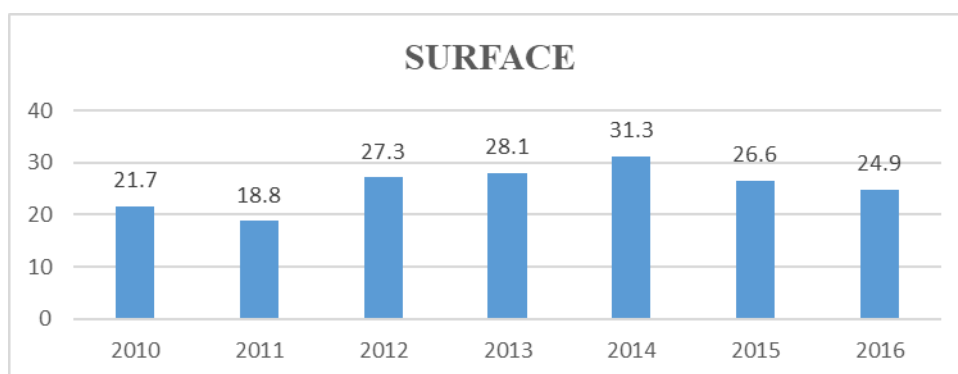
Specification	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/2010 (%)	2016/2015 (%)
Surface	U.M – thousand hectares								
	21,7	18,8	27,3	28,1	31,3	26,6	24,9	14,75	- 6,39

Source: www.inse.ro, own calculations

Chart no. 1 - The surface cultivated with sugar beet

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As regards the area planted with sugar beet in the period 2010-2016, these areas oscillate as a size, from one year to the next, with the minimum value being recorded in 2011 (18816 thousand hectares) and the maximum value is in the year 2014 (31280 thousand hectares), it is also noticed that there is an increase in 2016 as compared to 2010, namely: by comparison between 2016 and 2010, there is an increase of 14.75%

Economic operators in the sugar sector

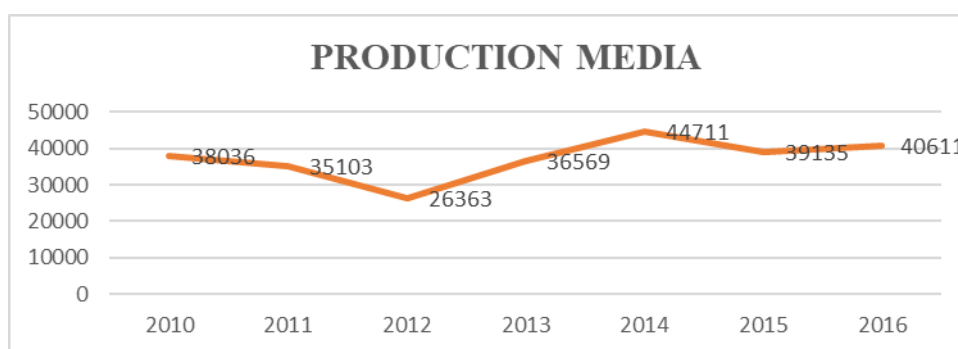
SC Sugar factory Bod S.A. - Process sugar from beet and raw sugar;
 SC Tereos Romania S.A. process sugar beet;
 SC Sugar Liestis S.A. - Process raw cane sugar;
 SC Lemarco Cristal SRL Urziceni - process raw cane sugar;
 SC Sugar Corabia S.A. - Process raw cane sugar;
 SC Agrana S.A. - Roman Branch - processes raw cane sugar and sugar beet;
 SC Agrana Buzău SRL - processes raw cane sugar;
 SC Agrana Țândărei SRL - processes raw cane sugar;
 SC Sugar Oradea S.A. - Process raw cane sugar and beet sugar

Table no. 2 - Average production data with sugar beet

Specification	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/2010 (%)	2016/2015 (%)
Average production	U.M – kg/ha								
	38036	35103	26363	36569	44711	39135	40611	6,77	3,77

Source: www.inse.ro, own calculations

Chart no. 2 - Medium cultivated with sugar beet



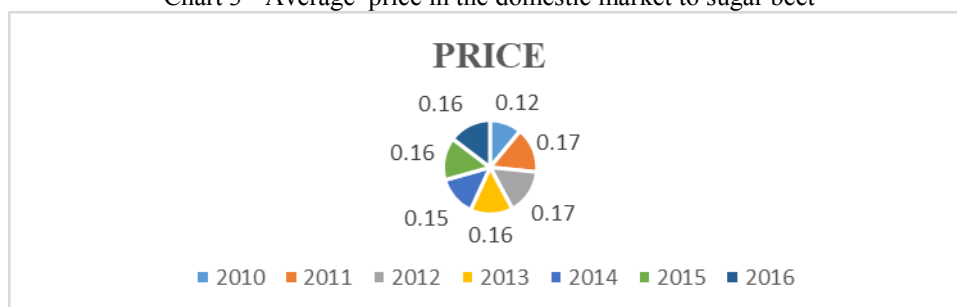
As the average production progresses, it reaches a peak in 2014 (44711 kg / ha) this is due to the high precipitation rate recorded in 2014, the beets being a crop that requires high water intake. In general, the trend of this indicator was increasing, with the minimum registered in 2012 (26363 kg / ha).

Table no. 3 - Average domestic sugar price for sugar beet

Specification	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/2010 (%)	2016/2015 (%)
Price	U.M – lei/kg								
	0,12	0,17	0,17	0,16	0,15	0,16	0,16	33,3	0

Source: www.madr.ro, own calculations

Chart 3 - Average price in the domestic market to sugar beet



In table no. 3, we note that although production has been characterized by a declining trend, which normally has a price-proportional direct influence, we can see from the data provided by MADR that the average price has increased. However, the variations in price are not significant, they fluctuate between 0.12 lei / kg (2010) and reach 0.16 lei / kg (2016).

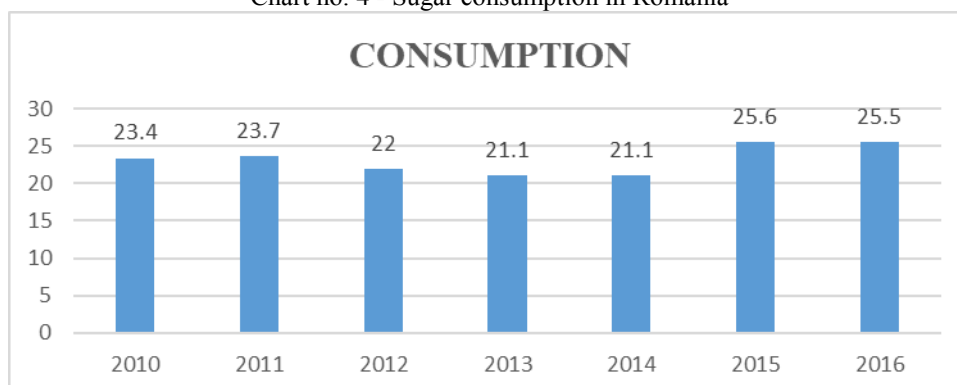
Table no. 4 - Sugar consumption in Romania

Specification	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/2010 (%)	2016/2015 (%)
Consumption	U.M – kg/resident								
	23,4	23,7	22	21,1	21,1	25,6	25,5	8,97	- 0,4

Source: www.inse.ro, own calculations

Table 4, shows the consumption of sugar / inhabitant registered in Romania in the period 2010-2016, it can be seen that in 2010 the average annual consumption per capita fell from 23.4 kg to 21 , 1 kg in 2013 and 2014 respectively, and then to grow by 25.6 kg in 2015 and 25.5 kg in 2016 respectively.

Chart no. 4 - Sugar consumption in Romania



CONCLUSIONS

In Romania, the main challenge on this market is to ensure that sugar consumption is made from its own resources of raw materials.

Among the main causes according to which this issue is important for Romanian agriculture we mention:

1. the major importance of sugar in the diet of the population, thus conditioning the level and quality of life
2. -deterioration of domestic sugar production
3. the repercussions on the efficiency of sugar production and consumption.

Sugar beet culture is one of the main crops in our country, being the main source of raw material for sugar production, which is the main purpose of beet cultivation. Globally, sugar beet is the second source of sugar production, after sugar cane, providing about 40% of world sugar production.

In conclusion, the sugar beet market is an important sector for the agricultural system in Romania, due to the ratio between supply and demand, which is higher in this market.

This paper analyzes the current situation in our sugar beet market in terms of cultivated area, average production, prices and consumption.

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