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CAP REFORM - PREMISE OF THE BALANCE BETWEEN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS, QUALITY OF LIFE AND CONSERVATION OF TERRITORIAL RESOURCES

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Abstract: *The agriculture of the future can only be achieved, in terms of sustainability, and this requires that any development that will be carried out in this area has to be performed in respect of the three pillars: economic, social and environmental. However, in the context of globalization, there are suffering all elements that define sustainable local development, these being the ones negatively affected from economically, socially and environmentally perspectives. Thus, from an economic point of view, local economies suffer from a competitive disadvantage with a devastating effect over time, on consumers, the environment, and local cultural values, due to the existence of more intermediaries on the food chain. In this respect, a certain reconfiguration in agriculture is imperative through the reform in order to support the creation of sustainable food systems that produce safe, nutritious, environmentally, friendly and affordable food. It must provide answers to consumers and farmers who demand high-quality food while meeting the environmental, social and economic challenges, including food waste. More and more, consumers are interested in knowing where the food comes from, especially in the case of processed foods. Economists regard the environment as a subsystem of the economy, while ecologists see the economy as a subsystem of the environment, thus creating a synchronicity between the economy and the ecosystem on which it depends. Nowadays, because profit has to be obtained at any cost, there are neglected environmental factors, and this negligence will cost future generations that will be private by the essential elements of life.*

Key words: food systems, quality of life, agriculture, economic

JEL Classification: Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4

INTRODUCTION

The study focused on identifying and analysing future actions and measures, with regard to the Common Agricultural Policy after 2020. In a global context, nutrition is a basic necessity for all and an important part of our cultures and traditions, at the same time, because of its intrinsic connection with almost all aspects of our well-being, including our environment, economy, health and society - food production and consumption is at the heart of the NUO 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

While over 820 million people suffer from hunger ¹⁴, global food production is expected to increase 60% to feed the estimated 9 billion people that they will live on our planet by 2050³. Despite the fact that natural resources are dwindling, about one third of the world's food products for human consumption are wasted⁴ (approximately 1.3 billion tonnes each year); ecosystems are also under pressure and biodiversity is lost (on land and sea).

Climate change is an additional critical threat to global food production and, in turn, food production and consumption has a profound effect on greenhouse gas emissions and the ability to maintain global temperatures at safe levels⁸.

Therefore, the way we produce, transport, store, transform, distribute and consume food - that is, "our food systems" - will largely determine whether the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris climate goals and the Aichi goals for biodiversity will be achieved.

The forthcoming Common Agricultural Policy - CAP should increase support for high quality locally produced foods. It should guarantee high animal welfare standards and promote the transition to organic production on a broader scale.

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The quality signs (logos) that indicate the names of the products with geographical indication (PDO / PGI / STG) contribute to the promotion of the areas from which they come and to the preservation and transmission of the future generations of traditional know-how and recipes. Thus, quality schemes are a tool for recognizing high quality, traditions and local values.

However, access to the market for local products from small producers is still difficult, and thus it is necessary to facilitate the development of short supply chains. These are able to ensure the development of direct business relationships between producers and consumers and contribute to the protection of the environment and sustainable development, by reducing the distance between the consumer and the producer, the consumer benefiting from fresh, healthier and nutritious products, by reducing the carbon footprint achieved. by reducing the pollution generated by the means of transport that ensure their supply, by reducing the storage / storage period and avoiding food waste due to the elimination of intermediate links.

The sustainability of the food supply chain is based on the interdependence of three links: farmers / producers, processors in the food industry and distributors. Their functioning is a priority and essential in terms of ensuring the quality and food safety of products that reach the consumer. Any instability or structural problem that appears on any of these three links negatively influences the entire chain, generating undesirable and syncopal effects in ensuring the continuity of the consumer supply with the respective products, as well as the price volatility.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Using the direct and indirect observation method, we highlight some important aspects necessary, which the new Common Agricultural Policy will have to continue, with the strengthening of the financing measures, which will ensure:

- Stimulating the development of direct commercial relations between producers and consumers (shortchain), so as to ensure the supply of consumers with fresh, quality and high nutritional value food;
- prioritizing access to financing of short chains (investments, marketing and promotion);
- supporting the producers in order to certify on the European quality systems the agri-food products;
- simplifying the access of producers to European funds intended for the promotion of agri-food products on the internal, intra-Community and third markets, through participation in fairs, exhibitions, presentation events.

However, in the pursuit of the profit to be obtained at any price, environmental factors are neglected, and this neglect will cost future generations who will be deprived of the essentials of life.

Economic indicators and economic theory do not explain how the economy undermines Earth's natural systems, with major repercussions on the environment, on the present and the future: expanding desertification, increasing carbon dioxide emissions, greenhouse gases, global warming, raising the level of the seas, the diminution of the sources of fresh water, the erosion and the loss of the fertility of the soils, the reduction of the surfaces with forests and pastures or hay, the disappearance of many species of plants and animals.

The more polluted the environment, the more human health is affected, influencing the third pillar of sustainable development, namely the social factor. The relations between the economic and the echo -ogenesis are at present an aspect of the utmost importance, being in an antagonistic relationship, the economic gain being the cause. Studies conducted internationally show that health status depends of the human-product-nature relationship, but the promotion and strengthening of health will depend on the optimal functionality of these relationships⁵.

Public health specialists are increasingly arguing that studies have shown that environmental changes, which cause changes such as urbanization, development of transport infrastructure, but also ecological processes such as the use of arable land and water, lower biodiversity by the

disappearance of certain species and climatic changes, they are in close connection with the health of the individual and the population.

The burning of fossil fuels has created carbon dioxide emissions over the earth's ability to neutralize them, leading to the accumulation of greenhouse gases, which are responsible for extreme weather events. Assuming that current trends will continue, global warming through the greenhouse effect becomes inevitable, causing imbalances between ecosystems. The faster these processes are, the more difficult it will be for the population to adapt without major consequences. Climate change has been permanent, but what is different now is the speed with which changes take place, as a result of non-compliance with environmental requirements.

Climate change further affects biodiversity, which in turn influences climate change. The IPCC report shows that approximately 20-30% of the plant and animal species evaluated so far are at increased risk of extinction, if the average global temperature rises by more than 1.5-2.5 ° C above 1980-1999¹.

According to recent theoretical developments in sustainable development, the definition given in the Brundtland Report has been supplemented with the requirement to reduce the adverse impact on the environment, in order to obtain more goods and services, with less consumption of natural capital (doing more with less). This implies the increase of bio-efficiency, which means a reduction of the consumption of natural capital (or of the impact on the environment) to a unit of value or production of goods and services.

The EU was noted for its efforts to create the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and assumed to be a leader in its implementation. As included in the European Green Deal proposed by the European Commission, an EU strategy is needed to strengthen the sustainability of the food system, leading to a global transition to fair, sustainable food systems, respecting planetary boundaries and contributing to a circular economy. The "Farm to Fork" vision presented below aims to ensure that the Union's vision meets society's expectations and that all actors in the food chain, including the citizens themselves, are actively contributing to it. Given that the EU depends on international trade and global supply chains, the strategy must also take into account the social, environmental and economic impact beyond the EU's borders.

In this context, the EU is developing a new strategy - "From the farm to the fork" - which represents a new vision, to create sustainable food systems that will ensure, by 2030, healthy and accessible food, with preserving the health of the planet and ensuring improved livelihoods for all². This new strategy aims to change the paradigm in the field of food production and consumption, with the main objective of creating a sustainable and equitable food system that will provide security and nutrition for future generations as well as respecting the planet's resources and contributing to the limits of the planet. development of the circular economy.

The advantages of the sustainable food system of the new strategy consist of:

- profitability and efficiency throughout - economic durability
- providing large-scale benefits for society - social sustainability
- generating a positive or neutral impact on the environment - environmental sustainability

The new strategy will take into account all actors in the food chain, from production, to consumption (agricultural / fishing, production / processing, storage, distribution, consumption and disposal of food waste).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The elaboration of the new strategy will be based on the following analyzes:

➤ The social dimension and the human health aimed at: demographic curve, life expectancy, poor population, malnutrition and obesity, high incidence of nutrition-related diseases (type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer), increasing antimicrobial resistance.

Global demographic trends are characterized by a growing and aging population and a continuation of urbanization. As the global population is growing at over 9 billion people by 2050, total food

demand is increasing by about 60%. "By the middle of the century, it is estimated that two thirds of the global population will live in the areas. urban, thus highlighting the tendency of depopulation of rural areas.

While life expectancy in the EU has increased (from 77.7 years in 2002 to 80.9 in 2017), there are still major health inequalities (up to 10 years in the hope of life) between countries and social groups, some of them being determined by diet.

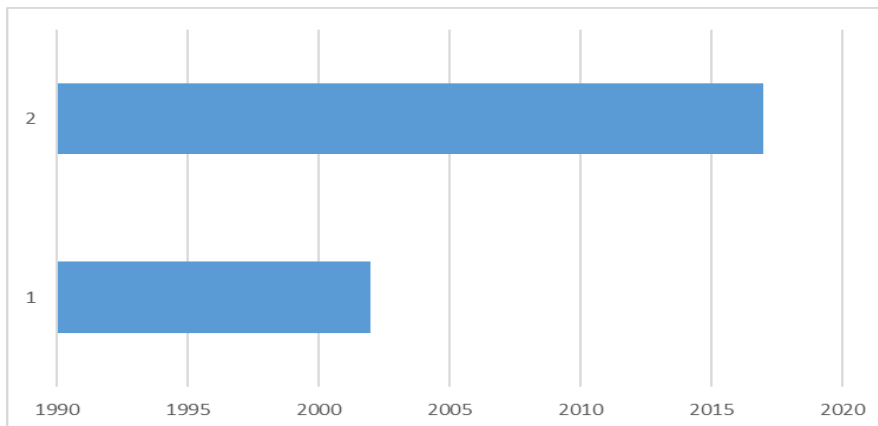


Figure 1. Comparison of life expectancy in the EU between the value in 2002 and 2017

Source: State of Food Security and Nutrition in the world, FAO 2019.

Own determination.

It is known that the number of undernourished, hungry people in the world has been steadily increasing since 2015, reaching in 2018, about 820 million, a situation similar to that of 2010-2011¹¹ being one of the engines of the world that generates migration patterns. populations.

Food is abundant and accessible in the EU. On average, EU households spend 15% of their disposable income on food. However, it is found that this figure varies significantly for different segments of the population, with food insecurity remaining a problem for about 40 million people in the EU¹⁰.

At EU level, consumer diets do not comply with dietary recommendations. While the intake of energy, meat, sugars, salt and fats continues to exceed the recommended limits, the consumption of healthy foods (whole grains, fish, vegetables, legumes and nuts) is low.

Poor dietary diets contribute to increasing weight of obesity and non-communicable diseases in the EU (type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and various tumors), with a devastating impact on human life and health maintenance costs, with 52% of the adult population being overweight in 2017 and over 15% obese⁹.

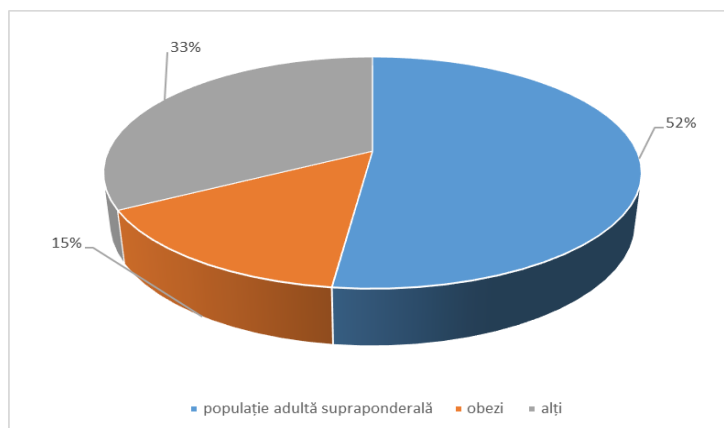


Figure 2. Increasing the share of obesity in the EU in 2017 .

Source: State of Food Security and Nutrition in the world, FAO 2019.

Own determination.

➤ The dimension of environment and climate

Climate change, loss of biodiversity, waste and food waste, diseases and pests that are increasingly resistant or unknown to date in the EU (eg African swine fever).

Climate change is perceived as a threat that the next generation will have to face: global warming has already reached 1 ° C above pre-industrial levels and increases to about 0.2 ° C every 10 years. Extreme weather events, respectively - droughts, heat waves, storms and floods occurring all over the world and the significant upward trend¹¹ of temperature severely affects agricultural and seafood production and also contributes to ocean acidification and concentration of oxygen, with major impact on marine ecosystems and fish stocks¹².

The affect in the sense of the loss of biodiversity, the degradation of the resources and the degradation of the natural ecosystem (soil depreciation, erosion, drought, the impact on the quality and volume of the water, the disappearance of the pollinators, etc.) are determined by the human activities including agriculture, the global growth of the population, combined with the need for food and energy, as well as the evolution of consumption patterns¹³. With the loss of biodiversity, in general, genetic diversity in agriculture (agrobiodiversity) is lost at a high level, lowering the potential for a more diversified and more resistant food system.

Food production extends the limits of the environment, and climate change increases these pressures: agriculture uses almost half of the world's cultivated land and constitutes, almost 70% of global fresh water losses and up to 90% of the surface, in some drought countries; agriculture, forestry and other sectors that involve land use generate a quarter of annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. At EU level, agriculture produces about 1% of greenhouse gas emissions, with the addition of food processing and transportation⁹.

➤ Economic dimension:

The food supply chain is characterized by an uneven number of operators per stage and a continuous concentration process.

Many companies and organizations have responded to citizens' demand for sustainable supply chains, through guides and certification schemes on sustainable use as well as through direct partnerships with farmers.

Revenues from agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture occupy a lower share than other sectors. Although increasing the size of farms and companies leads to increased labor productivity, the primary sectors are not attractive enough for young entrepreneurs.

The digital revolution brings benefits in all food sectors, even if data collection is not carried out systematically. The use of digital applications in primary production, processing and marketing is increasing at EU level and at different stages of implementation, depending on the actors involved. The discriminatory division of digitization should be avoided, ensuring that all parties involved have access to these opportunities.

➤ International dimension:

The EU holds the position of a major exporter / importer of agri-food products having strict standards in terms of food quality and safety as well as animal welfare, exerting a significant influence on the competitiveness of producers in the intra-Community area and in third countries. In 2018, EU agri-food trade reached 254 billion, of which EUR 144 billion represents exports and EUR 143 billion imports.

Specificity of EU food production and consumption as well as imports of certain commodities (for example, animal feed, tropical fruit, seafood, palm oil, coffee) which, in turn, can impact sustainability in countries third parties as well as on global food systems.

The EU stands out for its safe and high quality food reputation which is a key factor for the EU's success in food exports. However, in the absence of global convergence, higher EU food standards may create competitive disadvantages for EU businesses, both on the EU market and in third countries, which may not have such strict standards.

➤ Consumer behavior:

Increased information requirements on the production method, sustainable source, origin and quality of food, attention to environmental and ethical issues, increased demand for organic and plant-based foods, transparency on the food chain, short supply chains, data perception food sustainability, environmental impact, decreased confidence in modern food production systems, fraud in the food chain is one of the principles to be considered when creating a sustainable food system⁶.

Labeling with clear and coherent sustainability information on the EU market, developing and implementing private certification schemes (ecological footprint, no genetic changes, animal welfare, fisheries and aquaculture sustainability, etc.) help consumers make rational, conscious choices, according to with individual interests.

Despite high food safety standards in the EU, consumers are losing confidence in modern food systems, their demands shifting to less processed and fresh foods, provided by short food chains^{7 15}, which also results in reasonable prices in terms of quality. .

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, compared to the global context, where it is estimated that the food and agricultural system, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, could create an economic value of more than EUR 1.8 trillion by 2030, the EU is the first exporter and importer. of agri-food products in the world and is well positioned so that it can take advantage of the benefits of economic opportunities.

The global transition to sustainable food systems can be achieved through innovative, healthy, environmentally friendly, safe and nutritious food production and environmental and animal welfare, all of which represent one of Europe's leading brands.

Strengthening the sustainability of European food systems can help to increase the reputation for food and to provide a competitive advantage for EU companies, as the first actors in the supply of high quality and globally sustainable food in this field.

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