

STUDY REGARDING THE DYNAMICS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN OLT COUNTY

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Abstract. *In Romania agriculture has been and continues to be an important sector, both upstream and downstream of the other branches of the national economy. Therefore, the transformation of agriculture into an engine of economic growth is vital for Romania, being impetuous necessary to create jobs for the population from rural areas, increase farmers' incomes and support its performance. Unfortunately the performances of Romanian agricultural sector remain modest, even if it has a huge agricultural potential. In the present study we aimed to achieve a concise overview of evolution, in dynamics, of agricultural production realized by Olt County. Located in the south part of Romania and benefiting from favorable pedoclimatic conditions, Olt County represents an attractive place for development of the two sectors of agriculture, being an important resource for active population from rural areas.*

Keywords: *agricultural production, agriculture, producers, agricultural holdings, agricultural area*

INTRODUCTION

The Romanian agricultural and rural sector continues to have a substantial growth potential, still insufficiently exploited, the restructuring of agriculture and the revitalization of the rural economy, representing important levers of Romania's economic development. Restructuring agriculture, considering all these aspects into account, will have a major impact on the rural economy in general, agriculture remains the most important activity in rural areas and an essential source of income for households. [4]

Over time, agricultural production has manifested a wide variety of specific dynamics, both sectorial (vegetal and animal) and regional, depending on the diversity of agro-pedo climatic conditions, as well as the degree of use of production inputs. [1]

MATERIAL AND METHODS

As working methods, the authors of the paper used: identification and data collection, processing, analysis, observation and their interpretation. In this paper I analyzed the structure of agricultural production from the southern area of the country.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Located in the south of Romania, Olt County covers an area of 5507 km² and benefits from favorable conditions, in terms of relief, for the development of agriculture.

Olt County is also a leader in terms of performance and production in agriculture, and from the point of view of the agricultural area it is the sixth county in the country.

As it can be seen in Table 1, the vegetal production sector is predominant within the structure of agricultural production, accounting in 2016 a share of 72.9 from the total production, compared to 26.5% how it represents the livestock sector and 0, 6% agricultural services. The evolution of vegetal production shows an increase of 1% in the year 2016 compared to the year 2010.

Table 1.

Agricultural production of Olt County, in the 2010-2016 period

| County/Olt | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | |
|---------------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|
| | Mii RON | % | Mii RON | % | Mii RON | % | Mii RON | % | Mii RON | % | Mii RON | % | Mii RON | % |
| Agricultural production: | 1875620 | 100 | 2315761 | 100 | 1981842 | 100 | 2344424 | 100 | 2251122 | 100 | 2099497 | 100 | 1938599 | 100 |
| Crop | 1348345 | 71,9 | 1756239 | 75,8 | 1384574 | 69,9 | 1789013 | 76,3 | 1686378 | 74,9 | 1535309 | 73,1 | 1413512 | 72,9 |
| Animal | 523449 | 27,9 | 556960 | 24,1 | 592330 | 29,9 | 545837 | 23,3 | 540514 | 24,0 | 546324 | 26,0 | 514156 | 26,5 |
| Agricultural services | 3826 | 0,2 | 2562 | 0,1 | 4938 | 0,2 | 9574 | 0,4 | 24230 | 1,1 | 17864 | 0,9 | 10931 | 0,6 |

Source: Direcția Regională de Statistică Olt, [2]

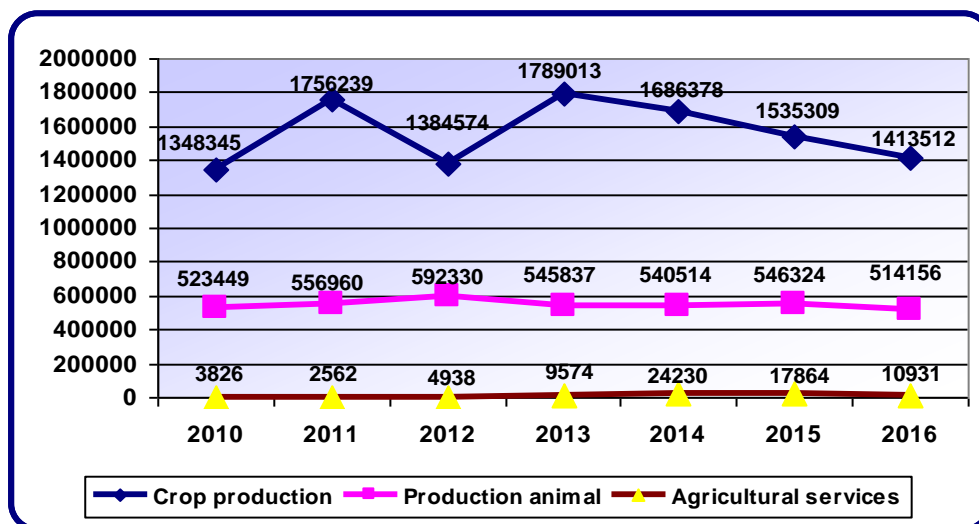


Figure 1. Agricultural production of Olt County

Together with the vegetable sector, the livestock sector is an important branch of the national economy in general and of agriculture in particular, providing raw material for the food industry and food for population. The revitalization of agriculture is difficult or even impossible to be achieved without the development of the livestock sector, by reconsidering the role and the place of this sector has to occupy in the national economy.

Next, we will present the evolution of agricultural production on the two basic branches of agriculture, namely the evolution of the vegetal production and of the livestock production.

Table 2.

Land Fund of Olt County by usage way

- ha -

| OLT | Total area | Agricultural area | from which, by categories of use: | | | | |
|------|------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|
| | | | Arable | Pastures | Meadow | Vineyar | Orchards |
| 2000 | 549828 | 440016 | 385190 | 34819 | 776 | 9643 | 9588 |
| 2005 | 549828 | 437165 | 390569 | 31022 | 637 | 7630 | 7307 |
| 2006 | 549828 | 436506 | 390838 | 31142 | 542 | 7595 | 6389 |
| 2007 | 549828 | 434846 | 388483 | 31784 | 529 | 7634 | 6416 |
| 2008 | 549828 | 434834 | 388471 | 31784 | 529 | 7634 | 6416 |
| 2009 | 549828 | 434808 | 388471 | 31784 | 529 | 7634 | 6416 |
| 2010 | 549828 | 434442 | 388445 | 31784 | 529 | 7634 | 6416 |
| 2011 | 549828 | 433903 | 388603 | 32339 | 528 | 7484 | 4949 |
| 2012 | 549828 | 433900 | 388512 | 32391 | 522 | 7445 | 5030 |
| 2013 | 549828 | 435943 | 389994 | 32529 | 707 | 7581 | 5132 |
| 2014 | 549828 | 436515 | 390336 | 33038 | 556 | 7465 | 5120 |
| 2015 | 549828 | 436351 | 389695 | 33038 | 556 | 7465 | 5120 |

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, [3]

As it can be seen from Table 2, Olt County has a total area of 549,828, from which the agricultural area is 436,351 ha, from which:

- vineyard plantations - 7,465 ha;
- fruit plantations - 5.120 ha;
- pastures - 33,038 ha;
- meadows - 556 ha;
- arable land - 389,695 ha - 6th place in the country.

From the point of view of the agricultural structure, there is seen an important growing potential of vineyard in the villages of Samburesti, Cirlogani, Dobroteasa, Morunglav, Vitomiresti, Strejesti, Maruntei, and in the field of vegetables in the localities from the Danube meadow and along the rivers Olt and Oltet.

Table 3.

Agricultural crop production at the main cultures

- tons -

| Main cultures | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Grain cereals, from which: | 686004 | 832171 | 495761 | 892861 | 943924 | 847636 | 812915 |
| - Wheat and rye | 307200 | 344439 | 267096 | 415009 | 467561 | 454445 | 440377 |
| - Barley | 32596 | 18671 | 21777 | 34680 | 43237 | 54465 | 43140 |
| - Grain corn | 322872 | 451003 | 179034 | 402843 | 390971 | 302661 | 291032 |
| Sunflower | 68141 | 60427 | 60082 | 92445 | 102736 | 84250 | 91526 |
| Potatoes - total | 33691 | 34328 | 23687 | 32635 | 21845 | 16800 | 17568 |

Source: Processing by the National Institute of Statistics, [3]

According to the Olt Agriculture Directorate, we can say that the year 2017 was a good year for agriculture in Olt County. The harvested wheat area was 123,300 ha, with an average production of 5800 kg and the total production of 715,140 tons. The triticale area was 5020 ha, with an average yield of 5300kg ha and a total production of 26,605 tons. The barley was harvested from the area of 16,000 ha, the average yield being 5370kg/ha, the total production of 85,920 tons.

Autumn barley was harvested from an area of 917 ha with an average production of 4499 kg and a total production of 4,126 tons. The spring barley was harvested from the 2500 ha area with an average production of 3300 kg/ha and a total production of 8,250 tons.

The rapeseed was harvested on an area of 28,880 ha, the average yield being 3289 kg/ha and the total production of 94,974 tons. The oat was harvested from the area of 5878 ha, the average yield of 2100 kg/ha, the total production being of 12,344 tons. At sunflower crops on the surface of 67,180 has obtained an average production of 3460 kg and a total production of 232,443 tons.

At soybeans, the average production on the 1820 ha is 2800 kg, meaning a total production of 5100 tons. At corn crops from the area of 74,200 ha has been obtained a total production of 474,880 tons, with an average production of 6400 kg of berry per hectare.

As for the evolution of the value of livestock production in Olt County, between 2010 and 2016 period, there are different evolutions, both ascending and descending, according to the category we are referring to, as it can be seen in the table below.

Honey production, in the analyzed period, declined significantly from 2010 to 2016. As regards the sheep and goat meat production, it can be seen a slight increase starting with the year 2015, the trend being decreasing at the rest of the categories.

Table 4.

Agricultural animal production

| Categories of livestock products | U.M. | Years | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| Production of meat live weight slaughtered - total | T. alive | 26579 | 24916 | 23661 | 22662 | 24168 | 24890 | 24160 |
| Cattle meat | T. alive | 3578 | 2643 | 2458 | 2972 | 3388 | 3923 | 3563 |
| Swine meat | T. alive | 14678 | 14123 | 13201 | 11445 | 13513 | 13356 | 12825 |
| Meat of sheep and goats | T. alive | 2514 | 2082 | 2133 | 2278 | 2124 | 2541 | 2758 |
| Bird meat | T. alive | 5795 | 6043 | 5868 | 5967 | 5142 | 5069 | 5013 |
| Cow and buffalo milk | Thousands hl. | 1013 | 988 | 865 | 815 | 830 | 839 | 846 |
| Sheep and goats milk | Thousands hl. | 271 | 269 | 290 | 213 | 198 | 211 | 193 |
| Wool | Tons | 230 | 225 | 259 | 242 | 253 | 264 | 284 |
| Eggs | Millions pieces | 233 | 217 | 211 | 225 | 210 | 205 | 194 |
| Honey extracted | Tons | 769 | 710 | 564 | 735 | 368 | 551 | 437 |

Source: Processing by the National Institute of Statistics, [3]

The evolution of livestock herds in Olt County during 2010-2016 period highlights the fact that in half of the studied species the trend is ascendant and in the other half the trend is descending, as it can be seen in Table 5.

Table 5.

The evolution of livestock in Olt County, in 2010-2016 period

| Categories of animals | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cattle | 32981 | 32326 | 33031 | 32761 | 33343 | 32958 | 33144 |
| Swine | 183570 | 178800 | 181191 | 180208 | 182294 | 180427 | 171704 |
| Sheep | 87002 | 88218 | 90390 | 93382 | 96018 | 114428 | 115771 |
| Goats | 60370 | 57653 | 63173 | 64436 | 72080 | 73777 | 77188 |
| Horse | 24345 | 23518 | 23181 | 22078 | 22319 | 21879 | 22720 |
| Birds | 2631385 | 2476882 | 2414467 | 2359481 | 1794590 | 1950137 | 1931743 |
| Families of bees | 28398 | 27427 | 26998 | 29274 | 30217 | 30649 | 33103 |
| Rabbits | 5079 | 4334 | 5404 | 5682 | 5058 | 5400 | 5026 |

Source: Processing by the National Institute of Statistics, [3]

CONCLUSIONS

The agricultural sector offers, in Olt County, real investment opportunities in the future, because of the large areas of agricultural land it has, the good results recorded in certain cultures and the important share of the employed population.

In the agriculture of Olt County, in recent years, massive investments have been made, ultra-performing machinery has been purchased, it has been invested in the vegetable and vineyard sector, in the modernization of wine cellars, and in the reconversion of the old vine plantations (Samburesti area), were built large warehouses, all of which were possible by accessing European funds.

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