

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE FARMS IN SOUTH MUNTENIA REGION

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### Abstract

*Agriculture is presented in all counties of the region. The region has favourable natural conditions and an important potential for the agriculture development. Agriculture in Romania has its natural, economic-traditional particularities that can be used in order to obtain some competitive advantages, the European Union encouraging these evolutions. At present, in agriculture in Romania there is a poor link between the farms with the market and a production structure that corresponds to the market demand. That is why, in order to highlight some strategic elements of the rural development, related to the agricultural activities in South-Muntenia Region, aspects regarding the structures of the farms, the structures of the crops and animal breeding must be taken into consideration. The present paper presents aspects regarding the farms in South Muntenia Region. The agrarian structures are the expression of evolution/involution of the agriculture and of the rural area, that balance the economic and social development as a whole. The reduction of the level of agricultural surfaces fragmentation and the stimulation of small size farms concentration constitutes an elements of the evolution of the agriculture and of rural area, the European agrarian policies having as objective the decrease of structural discrepancies of the farms. The limits of the farms were also defined under the average surface of 2-9 hectares, that define the small size farms, under these dimensions being considered family farms..*

**Key words:** agriculture, development, farm, region, rural area, structure.

### INTRODUCTION

The farm, defined as a self-sufficient technical-economic unit, which develops agricultural activities by using the agricultural surfaces and/or animal breeding, either as main activity, or as secondary activity, is represented in the rural economy in Romania, by the individual farm (peasant household) and the farm with juridical status, represented by the positions in the Agricultural Register, the registration is made at the level of the administrative-territorial units where the used agricultural surfaces and/or animal stock are found.

Both at national level and at South Muntenia Region level, the farm structures are non homogenous, giving many times a dual, complex character, both in the sense of a specialised or mixed profit, and for the existence of a excessively high number of small individual farms and very small ones, non performing ones, from economic point of view, and a reduced number of large and very large farms, with activity that did not restructured in order to comply with the

exigencies of the unique market and to benefit by the financial support given the application of the mechanism of subsidies reductions for the large farms. Further on, it is presented the number of farms at national level and at South Muntenia level in the Table 1.

Table 1. Farms that use agricultural surface and/or have animal stock in South Muntenia and its component counties in 2010

Development Region/County	TOTAL farms number /%
Romania	3.931.350/100.00
South Muntenia	762.885/19.41 762.885/100.00
Argeş	150.560
Călăraşi	65.744
Dâmboviţa	130.080
Giurgiu	83.821
Ialomiţa	61.079
Prahova	156.787
Teleorman	114.814

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was achieved by on site research and by processing the statistical date made available by the National Institute of

Statistics regarding the farms in the Region and making a comparison between the farms in the region and those at national level.

I used also the method of specific research: participative research, that supposes collecting information in the territory.

The study regarding the structure of farms in South Muntenia Region had as a starting point the analysis and data processing obtained from the following sources: Statistic Yearbook for 2010, publications from the National Institute of Statistics and information on rural development in Romania.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

For the year 2010 a number of 762.885 farms is indicated, of which 84,67% are farms with mixed profile (vegetal and animal breeding), 12,06% of farms are agricultural farms only with the used agricultural surface, and the rest of 3,26% are farms only with animal stock. The highest values regarding the number of farms are registered in the counties in the North part of the region, respectively Prahova with 156.787 farms, Argeş with 150.560 farms and Dâmboviţa with a number of 130.080 farms, related to the total surface of the farms, indicating a reduced dimension of the farms. It is remarked the percent of 19,41% of the total number of farms in the region (762.885 farms), compared to the national level that sums a total of 3.931.350 farms.

From the total of agricultural farms, 99,57%, are individual farms, that is 759.618 farms from a total of 762.882 farms, and the difference of 0,43%, that is 3.267 farms, have a juridical status. The most individual farms are registered in Prahova, Argeş and Dâmboviţa counties, that register a number of 156.334 individual farms, 149.947 and respectively 129.610 individual farms. The figures corresponding to the highest total number of for the units with juridical status is registered in Călăraşi county with 671 units, Argeş county with 613 units and Dâmboviţa county with 470 units. It is remarked the high number of companies with private capital in Călăraşi county of 328 units and in Ialomiţa county of 219 units.. Călăraşi county

registers also the highest number of companies/agricultural associations, of 70 units.

At regional level, the total surface of the individual farms has a percent of 53,75% while the total surface of farms with legal status represents 46,25% at regional level.

The counties with the highest total surface of the farms are Teleorman, Călăraşi, Argeş with 466.663,14 ha, 389.720,73 ha and respectively 386.037,11 ha. Depending on their legal status, the total surface of the individual farms with the highest value is registered in Telorman county with 275.779,38 ha, followed by Argeş county with 265.030,02 ha and respectively Dâmboviţa county with 223.178,73 ha. For the companies with mostly private capital, the county with the highest surface is Călăraşi county with 182.444,40 ha, followed by Ialomiţa county with 137.001,41 ha and respectively Telorman county with 96.273,47 ha. The public administration units in the region have also an important surface of 237.287,72 ha.

The data regarding the total agricultural surface of the farms, company types with mostly state capital, is registered for Dâmboviţa county 61.708,83 ha from a total at the regional level of 61.714,19 ha, that is a percent of 99,99%.

The counties with the highest agricultural surfaces owned by the associative forms are registered in Călăraşi with 52.840,73 ha, Ialomiţa with 32.764,76 ha and respectively Telorman with 49.421,98 ha.

The agricultural farms according to their economic dimension are classified in subsistence farms, their economic dimension is smaller than 2 UDE and semi-subsistence farms, with an economic dimension contained between 2-8 UDE

In South Muntenia Region, the farms as a whole, possess a used agricultural surface of 2.255.529,50 ha, that represents 16,40% of the agricultural surface used at the country level of 13.753.046,49 ha, the percent being higher than the percent for the total agricultural surface of 15,84%.

The agricultural surface used by the individual farms represents 54,02% at region level, higher comparatively with the percent

of 45,98% possessed by the agricultural farms with legal status. From these the highest percent of the used agricultural surface have the companies with mostly private capital with 56,20%, and the state capital ones with a percent of 0,06%. The public administration units in the region have also an important surface of 233.705 ha. The companies and associations in the region own a used agricultural surface in a percent of 16,97% of the total units with legal status in the region, being higher than the national level of 12,87%. The cooperation units own an extremely small used agricultural surface, under 1 ha. The highest values regarding the used agricultural surface is registered in Teleorman county with 452.971, 79 ha, Călărași county with 383.562,94 ha and Argeș county with 348.588,03 ha. The agricultural surfaces used within the individual farms, sums the highest values in Teleorman county with 262.901,50 ha, Dâmbovița county with 207.404,87 and Argeș county with 241.763,34 ha.

From the units with legal status, the counties with the used surface are: Călărași county with 301.533,43 ha, Telorman county with 190.070,29 ha and Ialomița county with 188.986,28 ha.

The counties with the agricultural surface used with the highest values of the agricultural surfaces used in the units with mostly private capital are registered in Călărași county with 181.687,51 ha, Ialomița county with 136.566,14 ha and Telorman county with 96.050,51 ha.

At the counties level, the companies/agricultural associations that own the agricultural surfaces used with the highest values are the counties: Călărași county with 52.740,14 ha, Telorman county with 49.320,45 ha and Ialomița county with 32.647,80 ha.

The data in the specialised literature mention and highlight the reduction of the number of subsistence farms and the formation of the sector of medium size farms although there were adequate measures of structural policy simultaneously with the reform of the land property. From 2002 until 2007 at the country level, the total number of the farms reduced

with only 447,57 thousand, the average surface on a farms increasing from 3,37 ha in 2005 to only 3,57 ha in 2007. In order to reach 10 ha/farm to the total agricultural surface under exploitation, at the level of 2007, the number of agricultural farms as a whole, it should be reduced to about 1,37 million farms compared to 3.931.350 existing farms, in 2007.

The average value of the agricultural surface on a farm, presents the value of 3,50 ha at national level and of 2,96 (84,57%) at South Muntena Region level, and the average value of the used agricultural surface/agricultural farms that use the agricultural surface, expressed in ha, has the value at national level of 3,57 ha, and at regional level of 3,06ha (85,71%). Within South Muntenia Region, the counties with the average used surface/farm that uses this surface, that presents the highest values are Călărași with 6,01ha / fam, Ialomița with 5,0 ha / farm and Teleorman with 3,95 ha / farm, corresponding to the hierarchy presented, except for Argeș county that registers comparatively with Ialomița county, with a number of 146.917 farms SAU, higher than the number of farms SAU in Ialomița county of 59.094.

## CONCLUSIONS

The restructuring of the agricultural sector, absolutely needed for the implementation of the sustainable development of the rural sector, it implies the permanent concern for the increase of economic performances of the agricultural farms simultaneously with the introduction of measures for environment protection and social development of the rural area. In order to achieve these objectives measures are needed for the reduction of costs, increase of farms dimensions, promotion of innovation, orientation towards market, investments in physical and human capital, diversification of economic activities, obtaining quality products, ecological products, use of less polluting technologies.

The way of organising the use of resources from farms level must reflect the application of the general principle of economic rationalisation and efficiency, imposing for

completion also an economic evaluation of the advantages and damages caused to the environment. In this sense, the relation agriculture – environment will express to a greater extent the characteristic features of the sustainable development.

In our country, the implementation of the sustainable development concept has as basic premises the sustainable development of the agriculture but also the territorial restructuring and the socio-economic development of the rural areas. [3]

Correction measures can be established for the negative aspects found out and extension measures for the positive aspects, in order to raise on a superior level the whole profitability of the economic financial activities of the farms, to that level of competitiveness imposed by the requirements and exigencies of the market economy. Such a competence can be obtained with the support of the economic financial analysis of the activity within the farm. Theoretically, the analysis studies the methodology of the economic financial analysis of the agricultural enterprise regarding the factors and causes that determined it, as well as the internal reserves in order to improve the results by using the available resources more efficiently possible [4]

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