

COMPARATIVE STUDY REGARDING THE RURAL AREA OF INDEPENDENȚA, ȘTEFAN VODĂ AND VÂLCELELE COMMUNES IN CĂLĂRAȘI COUNTY

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Abstract

The rural contains all the activities that develop outside the urban and contains three main components: the administrative communities constituted of relatively less numerous members and who have mutual relations; the deep spreading of population and collective services; the remarkable economic role of the agriculture and forestry. Călărași county is situated in the South-East part of the country and of the Romanian Plan, on the left shore of the Danube, having a surface of 5088 km². Călărași county has 2.1% of Romania surface. The relief is mainly represented by plains. This comparative study presents the rural area of the three communes in the county: Independența, Ștefan Vodă and Vâlcelele. The study highlights the main indicators of the rural area that characterizes the three communes that were studied and at the same time the different character and territorial variety of these communes.

Key words: *infrastructure, comparative study, county, administrative territory, commune*

INTRODUCTION

The natural resource of Călărași county are represented mainly by arable lands (82.7%), water (6.6%), forest and other lands with forestry vegetation. [1].

The soil fertility, the important sources of water (the Danube, Mostiștea and Gălățui lakes), rich in fish, the large forests favour the development of agriculture.

The socio-development of Călărași county is elaborated in accordance with the conceptions of regions development, correlated with the economic sector and civil organisations sector, with the National Development Plan of Romania, the Regional Development Plan, South Muntenia Region Development Strategy, etc. And with external factors (EU programs, provisions of the International Conventions, international relations of the Local Councils and County Council) can influence positively the development processes.

Having a decreasing population and a density of about 62.6 inhabitants/km, we must consider it as being mostly rural, counting 194,190 inhabitants in the rural area (59% of

the total population in 2009) that represents with 21% more than the average of the countries that joined EU recently. Thus, the rural and agricultural development will form a solid pillar. The county success and prosperity depend on its own economic performances. The county is dependent on agriculture and economy in the rural area. The spread of globalization threatens the traditional agriculture.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

For the presentation of Independența, Ștefan Vodă. and Vâlcelele communes, information taken from the Fiche of each locality was processed, provided by each local council and information collected from the County Department of Statistics and from Călărași Department for Agriculture and Rural Development.

The documents provided by the local councils of the 3 localities was analysed, for the elaboration of the diagnosis analysis of the commune, that included: data about commune situation and about its physical-geographical characteristics; statistics and census made at local level, in demography, labour force

employment sectors, economic sector, education and culture, environment protection; The General Urbanism Plan (PUG).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Independența Commune is situated at about 16 km West-North-West of Călărași municipality. Situated in the south part of Călărași county, the commune is in a contact area between Bărăgan Plain and the Danube Valley, area marked by a clear line of monometric and morphological differences, confirmed by a row of permanent human settlements. [2]. Independența village is situated at the East limit of the second terrace of the Danube, named by the population coast, beyond that Bărăgan Plain lies. The terrace area maintains the shore of Gălățui river, that communicates in the south part by an artificial canal, near Rasa village, with the Danube and Borcea branch. Independența communes is formed of three villages: Independența, Potcoava and Vișinii.

The data of the census in 2002 indicate a population of 3916 inhabitants. By the specific of their origin, the villages of Independența communes, formed as plain villages, near the water source and in the area where the water is near to the surface.

The second commune that is studied, Ștefan Vodă commune is a village in the North part of Călărași county, in Ialomița Plain and is the capital of the commune with the same name. at the census in 2002 the commune population counted 2500 inhabitants and the population density at the commune level was of 31.2 inhabitants/km². The documental certification of this commune was made in 1895. The main economic activity specific to the area is agriculture and service providing.

The third commune, Vâlcelele commune is situated in the North-East part of Călărași county and it is formed of Vâlcelele and Floroaica villages. [3]. The commune is situated at a distance of 29 km North-East of Călărași municipality and occupies a surface of 1,627 km² and it has a population of 2143 inhabitants. At the level of Vâlcelele

commune, the arable lands and the pastures constitute the only natural wealth. The arable lands provide a solid base for obtaining some varied agricultural products, needed in industry, food for the population and feed for animals. The fruits and vegetables constitute another category of agro-food raw materials. The subsoil is formed of clay soil, which is at a depth of 30-50 cm, and this allows to maintain the humidity. That is why, the vegetation is abundant and the soil is unique fertile despite the steppe climate. [4]

In the Table 1, it can be noticed a brief presentation of the agricultural characteristics of the three communes that are studied. It can be noticed that the difference between the arable land as surface in hectares is not very big in the three communes, Ștefan Vodă commune having the biggest surface of the arable land.

Table 1. Characteristics of Independența commune

Indicators	
No of component localities	3
Total surface	5.856,00 ha
Of which - arable	5.171,70 ha
- pastures, meadows	1,00 ha
- vine	156,90 ha
- orchards	13,00 ha
- forests	125,00 ha
- waters	57,00 ha
- roads	329,40 ha
- built yards	1,90 ha
- non productive	
DWELLINGS	1.395
Census - 1992	1457
Census - 2002	1440
Census - 2011	
NO OF ROOMS TO LIVE IN	3.520
Census - 1992	4.110
Census - 2002	
Census - 2011	4.135
POPULATION	3.916
Census - 1992	3.353
Census - 2002	466,6 ha
Census - 2011	
INSIDE LAND	

In the tables are inserted also data from the Census in 1992, 2002 and 2011, regarding the dwellings and the population evolution.

Table 2. Characteristics of Ștefan Vodă commune

Indicators	
No of component localities	1
Total surface	7.152,00 ha
Of which - arable	6.833,40
- pastures, meadows	72,00 ha
- vine	246,60 ha
- orchards	
- forests	813
- waters	873
- roads	808
- built yards	
- non productive	2076
DWELLINGS	2329
Census - 1992	
Census - 2002	2.631
Census - 2011	2.501
NO OF ROOMS TO LIVE IN	2.346
Census - 1992	339,55 ha
Census - 2002	
Census - 2011	
POPULATION	
Census - 1992	
Census - 2002	
Census - 2011	
INSIDE LAND	

Table 3. Characteristics of Vâlcelele commune

Indicators	
No of component localities	2
Total surface	6.457,00 ha
Of which - arable	5.849,88 ha
- pastures, meadows	160,00 ha
- vine	80,79 ha
- orchards	0,03 ha
- forests	166,00 ha
- waters	121,08 ha
- roads	284,84 ha
- built yards	123,07 ha
- non productive	
DWELLINGS	930
Census - 1992	982
Census - 2002	965
Census - 2011	
NO OF ROOMS TO LIVE IN	2.507
Census - 1992	2.764
Census - 2002	
Census - 2011	2.145
POPULATION	2.081
Census - 1992	1.833
Census - 2002	411,5 ha
Census - 2011	
INSIDE LAND	

From the tables above it can be remarked that the main difference between the three communes that were studied is the fact that Ștefan Vodă commune does not have non agricultural land represented by forests and water, unlike Vâlcelele commune, that being a settlement situated in the field it possesses forest and waters, and Independența commune has only water, no forests, as it is situated along Gălățui river, which links to Borcea Branch.

From the information listed in the tables presented previously it can be noticed the characteristics and differences between the three communes which demonstrates the varied character of the rural area in Călărași county, which has all the natural wealth so that the inhabitants of these communes to be able to practice agriculture and to contribute this way to the development of the rural area.

CONCLUSIONS

Briefly, the rural area in Călărași county has a remarkable importance regarding the positive and negative elements (mainly due to the relatively high percent of agricultural surfaces that it posses and of the population employed in agriculture, of the traditions and customs specific to this country).

The way of using the lands and their distribution in the territory are influenced by the relief conditions, the pedo-climate characteristics and the lands suitability to the established. The soils, although have a superior quality, are already affected by erosion, dryness and soils compacting, situations appeared as a result of the inadequate works and of the climate conditions.

In the rural area of Călărași county 49.1% of total population of the county lives, most of it employed in the sector of agricultural and related activities. From this reason, the achievement of the strategic objectives that supposes the efficiency and diversification of the agriculture and rural development sectors, it means the development of education infrastructure, health infrastructure, technical-

town infrastructure and business development in the agriculture sector.

The stimulation of the transformation of peasant houses in family farms with commercial character, that brings substantial incomes, will be an important process in diminishing the young labour force flow that migrates to the urban area.

The interested groups that could contribute to the development of the rural communities directly are the local authorities, the traders in the locality interested in the promotion of the activities and especially of the products obtained, implicitly the local economic development by the promotion of the electronic trade, providing financial and technical assistance for the adoption of the innovative solutions in the private sector, the teaching staff, students who want to return in the commune after they finish the studies, the initiative committees constituted under the projects implemented during the last years in the locality (these have experience both in the identification and prioritisation of needs – public consulting but especially in the process of identifying the financing sources and the implementation of various projects) as well investors attracted by the facilities provided (infrastructure, potential of young population, spaces, possibility to connect to the natural gas network in a near future, inside lands available for the construction of houses and for investments).

The vision regarding the economic-social development of the rural communities in Călărași county is the creation and support of the competitive, stable, healthy and diversified social economic sector, to ensure the continuous economic growth and the increase of the quality of life of the commune inhabitants.

The socio-economic development strategy of the rural communities must capitalize the potential, opportunities and real possibilities for development, including the creation of a simulative and competitive business sector, aimed to attract important private investments in the country and abroad.

REFERENCES

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