

RESEARCH ON THE LABOUR FORCE FROM ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE

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Abstract

Through this research is analyzed labor force from Romanian agriculture. The agriculture in Romania has a very large share in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Compared to other countries, the share of romanian agriculture in the GDP is 1.6 times higher compared to Hungary, almost three times compared to Poland and more than nine times to European Union. This does not explain the performance of romanian agriculture, but rather show the underperforming of the other sectors (industry and services sector) from Romania compared to those sectors of the developed countries. Also, Romania is currently one of the European countries, with the most farmers about 30% of the total active population. This share is almost 40% of the number of farmers, existing in the European Union, where the share of the active population in agriculture of all activities, is less than 5%. In Romania, the share of active population employed in agriculture, was relatively stable until 1990, about 3 million people were employed in this area. Structural economic reforms and dismantling of Agricultural Production Cooperatives of the early 1990s led to a drastic increase of the labor force employed in agriculture area. Rural labor force is engaged mainly in the agricultural sector, which is one of the major constraints of economic development of the country. Regarding of the quantitative and qualitative structural evolution of the labor resources in romanian agriculture, on long-term, the employment in agriculture fall into the general tend of all countries wich are in the course of modernization, respectively of the absolute and relative reduction.

Key words: active, agriculture, economy, labor force, population

INTRODUCTION

During the whole period after 1990, agriculture has played a very important social role, absorbing a large part of the labor force made redundant of urban industries.

In agriculture as in other branches of material production, the normal course of production processes involves the direct presence on the one hand, of material resources, respectively of production means, as the means of labor and labor objects, and on the other hand, of human resources represented by the workforce needed for both performing agricultural works and for technical guidance, organization, leadership and management of all available resources within the agricultural units.

Of course, the essential particularity of agriculture consists in the fact that all kinds of productive resources participate in obtaining the production based on the existence of natural climatic resources, showing large differences or regional specificities among these ones,

diversities in terms of volume and structure of quality within the agricultural entities and their organization subdivisions.

The economic development of agriculture in overall agricultural households in particular are interrelated with each of the resources of agricultural production, taken in hand, the optimality range of efficiency depending on the economic rationality of insurance, organization and use of these resources. Without underestimating the role and importance of all resources, it should be noted that the total resources and factors of agricultural production, human resources, viewed both quantitatively and especially qualitatively, has the highest dynamic and has decisive influence on the results of productive activity in agriculture, regardless characteristic typology of economic systems. The decades of rapid industrialization of the economy have been accompanied by accelerated rates of numerical decrease in the active population employed in agriculture, economic and social phenomenon extremely

complex and important implications on the essential correlations have been established between the main parameters of economic performance all agriculture, but especially in territorial - resource productivity and efficiency technical and financial materials. By highlighting some of the key aspects of the evolution of quantitative and numerical and structural- quality human resources in agriculture, becomes useful highlighting their main characteristics that define their role in agricultural production and their relative position to other resources involved. Undoubtedly employment resource is a very important category for agriculture.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The paper is based on the data provided by Romanian Institute of Statistics regarding labor force in the period 1990-2010.

They were processed according to the modern methodology used for such a study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In Romania, the share of active employed population in agriculture was relatively stable until 1990, with about 3 million people employed in this field. Structural economic reforms and dismantling of Agricultural Production Cooperatives in the early 1990s led to a drastic increase of workforce employed in agriculture.

Rural labor force is engaged mainly in the agricultural sector, which is one of the major constraints of economic development of the country.

The share of employed population in agriculture in total rural population has increased significantly since 1990 when it was 28.8% to 35% in 2000 and then declined slightly in 2002 to reach 29.7% and 28.8% in 2010.

Around the same evolution had and the share of employed population in agriculture in total employed population, which has increased from 28.2% (in 1990) to 40.8% in 2000 and declined slightly in 2003 to 39.5%, reaching in 2010, at 30%.

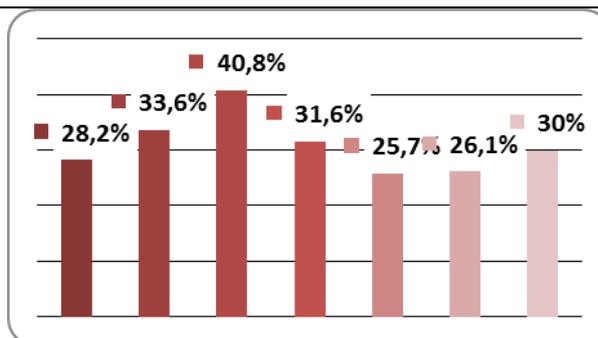


Fig. 1. The share of employed population in agriculture in total employed population

The increase of employed population in agriculture was due not so much to the needs of agriculture, but especially to workforce redundancies from the other sectors of the economy. With regard the employed population in agriculture by age groups, there is noticed an aging trend of workforce in this sector. Thus, over half of this belongs to the age group of over 45 years and the share of employed population in agriculture aged between 55 and 64 years is increasing.

Table 1. Percentage evolution of employed population in agriculture by age groups

Specification	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	%				
15-25	10,1	9,2	9,0	9,4	7,8
25-34	19,9	18,0	17,6	17,3	26,6
35-44	17,9	18,4	18,5	19,7	28,9
45-54	18,4	17,7	17,2	17,6	20,8
55-64	18,4	19,2	20,2	20,1	11,4
Over 65	15,3	17,5	17,5	15,9	4,5

Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2007-2010.

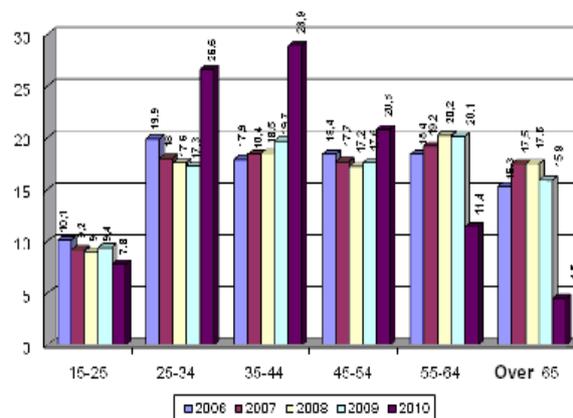


Fig. 2 The share of employed population in agriculture by age groups

Researches on the social-economic characteristics of labor force from agriculture show that typical family farm household is composed of an aged farmer, self-employed, which has a level of education below middle, and family members. In general farming population could be divided into three categories, as follows:

- full employment in agriculture;
- workers in other sectors but working in agriculture as well;
- workers which are not working in other sectors and in agriculture are only working partially.

In Table 2.20 there is presented the evolution of average number of employees in the total economy and agriculture. If in 1990, about 655,000 people were employed (ie 8.03 % of total employed persons in Romania), in 1996 this number dropped to 354,000 (55.5% of total employees in agriculture existing in 1990 (i.e. 6.12% of total people employed in Romania in 1996), while in 2009 this reduction continued reaching 110 thousand or 2.3 % of total employees existing in Romania in 2009.

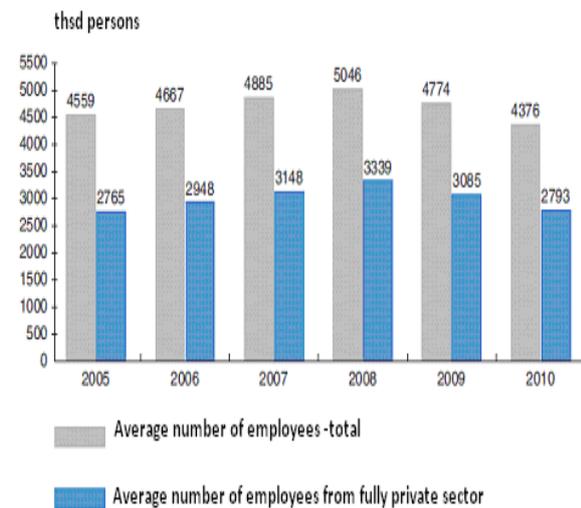


Fig. 3. Evolution of average number of employees

The sharp decline in the number of employees in agriculture was determined by the transformations of property relations, was due as well to economic activity reduction from the major agricultural companies. This is

a great loss for agriculture, as the professional qualification level of smallholders is extremely low.

At this point it is clear that only agricultural activities can not sustain rural population incomes and this applies in the case of Romania, state where the percentage of the population employed directly in agriculture is 1.5 times higher than in the 15 old member states of EU combined.

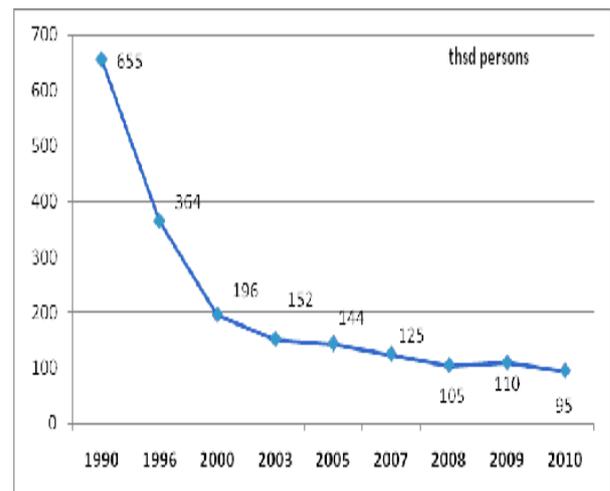


Fig. 4 Evolution of average number of employees in agriculture

There must be found new ways to meet the needs of rural development and the political class must articulate a vision of future for long-term of Romanian rural society and must develop a comprehensive policy, including institutional arrangements to facilitate the achievement of these objectives of perspective.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the study carried out during the scientific research report, we can conclude the followings:

- Agriculture in Romania has not yet approached the European agricultural model; it is not being directed to the market and towards the achievement of expected efficiency after joining the European Union;
- While employment in agriculture of Romania still remains one of the largest in Europe, the share dynamics of population employed in agriculture show a gradual

downward trend thereof, from 40.9% in 2001 to 30% in 2010.

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