

THE POTENTIAL OF RURAL AREA DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPENDENȚA COMMUNE IN CĂLĂRAȘI COUNTY

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Abstract

The concept of development means all forms and methods of socio-economic development, and it is based first of all on ensuring a balance between these socio-economic systems and the elements of natural capital. Călărași county is situated in the South-East part of the country and of the Romanian Plain, on the left shore of the Danube. It has a surface of 5088 sqkm and it occupies 2.1% of Romania surface. The relief is mainly represented by fields. The county depends on agriculture and economy in the rural area. In the rural area of Călărași county 49.1% of the total population in the country lives, most involved in agricultural activities or activities related to it. The proposed paper presents aspects regarding the potential of sustainable development of Independența commune in Călărași county.

Key words: commune, region, rural area, rural development

INTRODUCTION

The socio-economic 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) that can influence positively the development processes [1]

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.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

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

The sheets provided by the County Department of Statistics were 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, animal and vegetal production.

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.

By the specific of their origin, the villages of Independența commune were formed ad field villages, near the water source and in the area where the groundwater is near the surface.

Table 1. Commune surface

| AGRICULTURE | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Agriculture surface according to its use – hectares | 5489 | 5507 | 5507 |
| Arable land - ha | 5418 | 5435 | 5441 |
| Surface – vineyard and vine nursery - ha | 71 | 71 | 65 |
| Surface – pastures – ha | - | 1 | 1 |
| Surface with non agricultural land total - ha | | 349 | 349 |
| Surface with water and pounds – total – ha | | 68 | 68 |
| Surface with constructions total - ha | | 160 | 160 |
| Surface – communication ways and railways total – ha | | 120 | 120 |
| Surface with degraded and non productive land – total – ha | | 1 | 1 |
| Total surface – private property - ha | | 5656 | 5656 |
| Agricultural surface – private property – ha | | 5507 | 5507 |
| Arable surface - private property - ha | | 5435 | 5441 |
| Pasture surface – private property - ha | | 1 | 1 |
| Surface with vineyard and vine nursery – private property - ha | | 71 | 65 |

The main occupation of the inhabitants in Independența commune is the agriculture – the plants growing and animal breeding. The agricultural land of the three villages that form the commune stretches on a distance that

vary between 4 and 25 km and wheat, may, barely, oats, maize are grown. Later on, the sugar beet, sun flower, peas, beans were added [3].

Table 1 presents a general image of the agriculture and surfaces used for these crops. From the data taken from the Statistical Yearbook of Călărași county it results that the total population of the commune on 1st July 2011 was of 3462 inhabitants. The social-economic conditions have a remarkable influence also regarding the multiple aspects on the structure and evolution of the demographic phenomena. The decrease or increase of the natural increase was and is caused, mainly, by the low or high values of birth rate and death rate.

In the table below it can be seen the natural movement of the population in Independența commune.

Table 2 Population movement

| Indicator | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total population on 1 st July | 3503 | 3477 | 3462 |
| Born – live | 25 | 30 | 26 |
| Deceased | 64 | 64 | 58 |
| Natural increase | -39 | -34 | -32 |
| Marriage | 13 | 10 | 11 |
| Divorce | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Born - dead | 0 | 0 | 0 |

As regards the labour force, the total number of employees in year 2011 was of 226, from this number on an average 55 persons being employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing, and 46 persons employed in transport and storage activities.

As regards the situation of SMEs in the commune, from the research that I made on the site it resulted that from the 12 SMEs identified in the commune, most of them are small size enterprises that deal with the retail trade in non specialized stores, mainly the sale of food products, drinks and tobacco.

One of the main representative SMEs in the commune is the agricultural enterprise named Agrozootehnica Independența, that has a number of 220 employees and deals with animal breeding, having a modern farm for cattle breeding, established with the support of European programs, vegetal growing, services providing and seed production.

As it follows, the surface with the main growing was analysed (Table 3).

Table 3 Surfaces grown with the main growing in Independența commune in the period 2009-2011

| Surface | UM | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|----|------|------|------|
| Surface grown with cereals | ha | 2150 | 2050 | 2450 |
| Surface grown with maize berry - ha | ha | 1250 | 1320 | 1100 |
| Surface grown with sun flower | ha | 1450 | 1310 | 1080 |
| Surface grown with vegetables | ha | 25 | 22 | 28 |

The rest of the surface was grown with turnip, soybeans, fodder, etc.

Table 4. The vegetal production in Independența commune, in the period 2009-2011

| Vegetal production | UM | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---------------------------------|----|------|-------|------|
| Total production of cereals | to | 9980 | 10250 | 8575 |
| Total production of maize berry | to | 5625 | 7900 | 4200 |
| Total production of sunflower | to | 4640 | 3930 | 2100 |
| Total production of potatoes | to | 140 | 110 | 135 |
| Total production of vegetables | to | 105 | 96 | 118 |
| Production of grapes | to | 180 | 190 | 160 |

Table 5. The evolution of animal stock in Independența commune in the period 2009-2011 [3]

| Categories | UM | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cattle | Head | 406 | 385 | 424 |
| Swine | Head | 840 | 884 | 970 |
| Sheep | Head | 2720 | 2810 | 2963 |
| Poultry | Head | 21200 | 21250 | 23350 |

Independența commune is a very clean, neat commune, with hardworking inhabitants, that want to live in a modern, civilized environment, but at the same time, they have occupations specific to the village.

Several projects were finalized in 2009 and 2010 as follows:

Investments finalized in 2009:

1. Works for maintaining the paved roads (framework agreement) in Independența commune.

2. Pavements arrangement in Independența village.

3. Specific means of transport purchase (waste lorry) under the project "Waste management system in communes : Independența, Cuza Vodă, Grădiște, Al. Odobescu, Vâlcelele, Ciocănești and Vlad Țepes.

Investments finalized in 2010

1. Works for maintaining the paved roads (framework agreement) in Independența commune.

2. Purchase of 94 waste dump bin, 428 pieces of Euro bins, with the capacity of 240 l and 10.589 pieces of Euro bins with the capacity of 120 l under the project "waste management system in communes : Independența , Cuza Voda , Gradistea , Al. Odobescu , Valcelele , Ciocanesti si Vlad Tepes"

3. Modernization of sportive base in Independența commune

4. Execution of drainage works on the football field in Independența commune.

Projects finalized:

- roads rehabilitation under RDP program - Independența, Potcoava and Visinii villages – length 7.9 km

- road paving by commune association under RDP program – Length 8 km

- No. 3 Road asphalt – Independența village

- Park arrangement – Independența village

- kindergarten yard arrangement -

Independența, Potcoava and Visinii villages

- Construction of ecological landfill under the Program Pollution Control in Agriculture - satele Independența, Potcoava and Visinii villages

- sidewalks construction – Visinii village

- roads paving in Vișinii village

- Rehabilitation of the general school with I-VIII forms, A and B corpus - Independența village.

Proposed projects:

- water supply according to GO 7/ 2006- Independența village

- Roads paving and bitumen covering - Independența village

- Construction of cleaning and sewerage station - Independenta village

CONCLUSIONS

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 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.

Independența commune is part of the rural communities in Romania that will gain an urban aspect in a short time duet to the effort of its inhabitants, who found the resources needed for the creation of a well construed locality.

REFERENCES

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