

ANALYSIS OF THE OPERATING STRUCTURES EVOLUTION IN THE NORTH-WESTERN REGION DURING 2005-2010

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Abstract

“During the preparation for adhesion, Romanian agriculture has been in a process of adapting production to market requirements and resizing acreage and livestock, with obvious consequences, reflected by the difficulties created on animal products market by increased imports and weak support to these sectors or steep decline in fruit and vegetables. In 2010, according to the General Agricultural Census (GAC) farms in the North-West represented 13.7% of the national agricultural holdings and covered 13.6% of the utilized agricultural area” (Toma et al., 2009).

Key words: agriculture, impact, agricultural policies, subsidies, acreage.

INTRODUCTION

During the preparation for adhesion, Romanian agriculture has been in a process of adapting production to market requirements and resizing acreage and livestock, with obvious consequences, reflected by the difficulties created on animal products market by increased imports and weak support to these sectors or steep decline in fruit and vegetables.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The overall impact of adhesion on Romanian agriculture is reflected in macroeconomic and sectoral indicators registered during 2007-2011.

In this context, the impact assessment is carried out priory taking into account the effects of adhesion on agriculture and indirectly the changes generated by these effects on economy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In 2010, according to the General Agricultural Census (GAC) farms in the North-West represented 13.7% of the national agricultural holdings and covered 13.6% of the utilized agricultural area.

They have experienced a more pronounced decrease in 2005-2007 (10.7%) than in 2007-2010 (only 1%).

Much higher growth of agricultural units, with 101.1%, demonstrates, on the background of reducing individual holdings by 1.5%, that the agricultural policy measures during post-adhesion period failed restructuring

this sector, individual farms representing in 2010 around 90% of the total. Structurally, most farms have less than 2 ha utilized agricultural area (63.5% in 2010), followed by 2 to 4.9 ha farms accounting for 25.1%. Number of those under 2 ha increased post-adhesion period by 16.3% (Table 1).

Increasing the post-adhesion period was also the number of farms, with over 20 ha. Highest dynamics, 76.3%, have had those over 100 ha, followed by those with 50 to 99.9 ha (an increase of 70.5%). These structural changes identified on the same trend since 2007, at least in farms over 30 ha, show a clear impact on the area of direct payments that led, albeit at a fairly low rate, to the formation of scale farms high of over 30 hectares. But if we look from a dynamic perspective, we can notice that the increase was not accompanied by small farms decrease, but decreases around 40% of farms with 5-20 ha.

Table 1

Dynamics and structure of the number of farms in the North-West, by class of utilized agricultural area during 2005-2010 period

	MU	2005	2007	2010	2007/2005	2010/2007
Under 2 ha	number	350,280	288,570	335,740	82.4 %	116.3 %
Share in total farms	%	59.2	54.1	63.5	-5.2 pp	9.5 pp
2-4.9 ha	number	162,460	160,080	132,780	98.5 %	82.9 %
Share in total farms	%	27.5	30.0	25.1	2.5 pp	-4.9 pp
5-9.9 ha	number	52,260	62,600	38,810	119.8 %	62.0 %
Share in total farms	%	8.8	11.7	7.3	2.9 pp	-4.4 pp
10-19.9 ha	number	13,330	13,820	7,940	103.7 %	57.5 %
Share in total farms	%	2.3	2.6	1.5	0.3 pp	-1.1 pp
20-29.9 ha	number	1,740	1410	1,500	81.0 %	106.4 %
Share in total farms	%	0.3	0.3	0.3	-0.03 pp	0.02 pp
30-49.9ha	number	820	990	1,190	120.7 %	120.2 %
Share in total farms	%	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.05 pp	0.04 pp
50-99.9 ha	number	550	610	1,040	110.9 %	170.5 %
Share in total farms	%	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.02 pp	0.1 pp
Over 100 ha	number	900	930	1640	103.3 %	176.3 %
Share in total farms	%	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.02 pp	0.1 pp

Source: based on Eurostat data, Structure of agricultural holdings 2010 and historical data (2000-2007) (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>) and INS-RGA (Institutul Național de Statistică, Recensămintele Generale Agricole 2005-2010).

The impact of direct payment subsidies mentioned above is even more evident if we follow the evolution of utilized agricultural area. Thus, in 2007-2010, there is a decrease in utilized agricultural area of individual holdings (29.8%) and an increase of those cultivated by agricultural units (30.9%) (Table 2).

Table 2

Dynamics and structure of the utilized agricultural area of farms in the North-West region, by class of utilized agricultural area during 2005-2010 period

	MU	2005	2007	2010	2007/2005	2010/2007
Total utilized agricultural area (UAA)	ha	1,941,420	1,962,060	1,808,350	101.1 %	92.2 %
Utilized agricultural area – individual farms	ha	1,433,210	1,683,900	1,182,540	117.5 %	70.2 %
Utilized agricultural area – individual farms	ha	508,210	478,160	625,810	94.1 %	130.9 %
Under 2 ha	ha	268,860	227,700	237,230	84.7 %	104.2 %
Share in total UAA	%	13.8	11.6	13.1	-2.2 pp	1.5 pp
2-4.9 ha	ha	513,280	513,740	416,640	100.1 %	81.1 %
Share in total UAA	%	26.4	26.2	23.0	-0.3 pp	-3.1 pp
5-9.9 ha	ha	348,620	423,690	258,270	121.5 %	61.0 %
Share in total UAA	%	18.0	21.6	14.3	3.6 pp	-7.3 pp
10-19.9 ha	ha	170,210	179,570	103,360	105.5 %	57.6 %
Share in total UAA	%	8.8	9.2	5.7	0.4 pp	-3.4 pp
20-29.9 ha	ha	42,250	33,680	36,140	79.7 %	107.3 %
Share in total UAA	%	2.2	1.7	2.0	-0.5 pp	0.3 pp
30-49.9ha	ha	31,370	37,810	45,790	120.5 %	121.1 %
Share in total UAA	%	1.6	1.9	2.5	0.3 pp	0.6 pp
50-99.9 ha	ha	37,110	41,680	71,870	112.3 %	172.4 %
Share in total UAA	%	1.9	2.1	4.0	0.2 pp	1.9 pp
Over 100 ha	ha	529,710	504,170	639,060	95.2 %	126.8 %
Share in total UAA	%	27.3	25.7	35.3	-1.6 pp	9.6 pp

Source: based on data Eurostat, Structure of agricultural holdings 2010 and historical data (2000-2007) (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>) and INS-RGA (Institutul Național de Statistică, Recensămintele Generale Agricole 2005-2010)

Utilized agricultural area of farms over 30 ha shows a positive trend since 2005, but also during 2007-2010. The greatest dynamic registered, however, on farms with 50 to 99.9 ha: agricultural surfaces used increased by 12.3% between 2005-2007 and 2007-2010 to 72.4%. However, the overall share of UAA remains at low levels, over 50% of the total UAA in 2010 was concentrated in farms under 9.9 ha. In farms with over 100 hectares of UAA growth was lower, only 26.8% in the period 2007-2010, however, they held 35.3% of the total utilized agricultural area in 2010, compared to only 27.3% in 2005.

CONCLUSIONS

The North West region experienced during the post-adhesion period (2007-2011) an economic growth from pre-adhesion period, with a slight decrease in 2009 due to the national and international economic crisis. In 2011, regional GDP, expressed in nominal terms, compared to 2006, increased by 64.5%.

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