STRATEGIES REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGII NECESARE ÎN VEDEREA REALIZĂRII DEZVOLTĂRII RURALE SUSTENABILE

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Abstract: *Rural area is a highly complex concept which has generated a great diversity of views on the definition, scope and components. A more complete definition of the countryside is by considering the following criteria order: morphological (number of inhabitants, density, type of environment), structural and functional (type of activities and relations). Through its components, the countryside is different from all other existing facilities in a given territory. The most significant differences between rural areas and other spaces may be indicated in the following areas: economic structure, population density, the dominant basic jobs, culture and cultural buildings, spiritual life, relationships, customs.*

Key words: *strategies, sustainable rural development, rural economy*

INTRODUCTION

Rural area is a highly complex concept which has generated a great diversity of views on the definition, scope and components.

To understand the complexity of this concept is necessary to define, even summary of key concepts and specific components, such as:

- **Rural** includes all activities that take place outside urban areas and includes three components: administrative communities consisting of relatively few members and have mutual relations; dispensation given population and collective services, particularly the economic role of agriculture and forestry. With all that, economically, agriculture and forestry are high, meaning "rural" is broader than that of agriculture or forestry, is

included here and other activities such as specific industry areas; crafts, productive services on agricultural production and non-affecting the rural population.

- **Rural** area is the notion that its complexity has generated numerous opinions which differ from one author to another, but basically it comes close to the same conclusions. After some opinions, is considered "rural"can be defined in terms of concepts that characterize it, it comprises everything that is not urban. This broad definition creates often confusion between the term and concept of the agricultural areas, which does not reflect reality.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The authors have used and applied as methods of operation: a selective survey of foreign and domestic bibliographies, identification and data collection, processing, analysis, observation and interpretation.

Currently in Romania there are large differences between the development levels of rural versus urban areas and between regions. These differences are manifested at a global (overall economic development) and at branch (example agricultural field). Mitigating disparities in rural and especially agricultural ones can be acting simultaneously in two directions:

- adaptation, modernization and development of rural economy in a coherent integrated, promoting sustainable agricultural holdings and agricultural enterprises with a strong participation of investors in the country and abroad;

- promotion of rural development programs to ensure the application of selection criteria in line with the national strategy for sustainable development of rural areas and compatible with those of EU countries.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Analysis of current situation of the agricultural sector in Romania indicates the need to accelerate the restructuring and modernization process in rural areas, given their economic and social importance to ensure integrated and sustainable economic development of rural areas.

Thus, as the result of evaluating the social, economic and environmental key issues facing the Romanian countryside in general are:

- The large number of subsistence farms and semi-subsistence, which are not viable, with an average size of the holding of only 1.7 ha;
- Low agricultural productivity and production quality, the lack of adequate financial resources, inadequate and inefficient use of available resources, lack of staff trained in the practice of modern agriculture, the lack or inadequacy of managerial and marketing knowledge, and inadequate technical infrastructure;
- Important gap between imports and exports of agricultural products (mainly recorded exports of low added value products);
- Lack of organized marketing network, farmers are forced to sell their own products or sell to "middlemen" at very low prices, leading to a very large gap between the prices of raw agricultural products sold by farmers to processors and price finished;
- Poor state of basic infrastructure;
- There are significant areas of land (about 1 / 5) seriously affected by natural risk floods, landslides, high seismicity, desertification, water resources.

Rural development strategy takes SWOT analysis is based on agriculture and rural sector and proposes the adoption of those measures to solve the first problem of rural infrastructure, and structural problems of agriculture, on the other side. These goals will be achieved by reducing the number of people who earn their living from agricultural activity, a direct effect of these actions being the issue of land, which will lead consolidation and strengthening of viable farms.

The proposed strategy envisages implementation of a multifunctional model of agriculture and rural development. This model is compatible with economic and social policy of the European Union, whose main objective is to reduce development disparities between EU regions and hence in reducing the development gap between rural and urban areas.

CONCLUSSIONS

Rural development policy is rooted in the early stages of implementation of CAP. Since the creation of EEC rural areas have been

covered by major changes, notably a reduction in the number of farmers. These developments have led to rural development is an increasingly pressing political concern. Rural development policy must restore the connections between agriculture and nature, to maintain and preserve a clean environment to train, promote stabilization of population in these areas.

Changes occurred in July of 2003 (mid-term of the CAP reform it - Fischler's Reform), which was aimed to promote a policy of comprehensive rural development since 2005, with an increase in funds and characterized by measures to promote protection environmental quality and animal welfare, are embodied in a series of measures designed to reform the global perspective of the CAP. These changes have the effect of providing new sources of income to farmers and reduce the use of a system of direct payments ("modulation") granted to large farms (transfer of funds from the "pillar of the CAP to Pillar II"). Thus, for farms receiving direct payments in the amount higher than 5000 euros per farm, the modulation is done as follows: 3% in 2005, 4% in 2006, 5% in 2007 and 5% during 2008-2013.

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