ROMANIAN RURAL AREA TRADITION AND DEVELOPMENT

SPAŢIULUI RURAL ROMÂNESC TRADITIE SI DEZVOLTARE

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Abstract: *This present paper aims to present the problematic of sustainable development of Romanian rural area, from the perspective of recent history (Rome Treaty) and the present time (Lisbon Agenda) and has as departure point, the certainty that the Romanian rural development must be consistent with global values and concepts regarding the environment, the agriculture and the role of tradition. Thus, the paper discusses a unitarian and coherent set of criteria and principles of sustainable development, in relation to the increase in efficient use of natural, energetic, material and informational resources et highlights the need to accelerate the preoccupations in order to implement, programs for the sustainable development of the rural area.*

Key words*: rural, development, sustainable, resources*

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development of society involves in the context of what is synthesized by the dualism of ecosystem-eco-efficiency, the preoccupation of humanity with regard to the current and future situation of its natural, energetic, material and informational resources [20].

Development implies evolving from an old qualitative state to a new one, a process which materializes in the general civilization level of the population occupying a territory. Civilization reflects the level of material and spiritual development of a society in a given time, of a State, of a people, of a social category[21]. Complex development of rural area is an

[20] Zaman Gh., Gherasim Z., 2007, Criterii şi principii ale dezvoltării durabile din punctul de vedere al resurselor acestora, Buletinul AGIR nr. 1/2007 Ianuarie+februarie, pag. 136.

[21] Nistreanu M., 2009, Dezvoltare regională durabilă. Politici şi strategii, Editura nouă, Bucureşti.

objective of national importance, given the conditions offered by EU membership.

The concept of durable or sustainable rural development began to take shape after the UN Conference on Environment (Rio de Janeiro - 1972) and marked a new stage related to clarification of the concept and practically implementing it[22]. According to M.A. Zaman[23] integrated rural development emerged as one of the most promising alternatives to the adoption and formulation of development policies and strategies as a policy aimed at: reducing the gap between urban and rural life and reducing disparities between different income groups. The ultimate goal is to improve or increase the quality of life for most people. Rural development in Romania represents a major component of the overall evolution of the Romanian economy and is based on three major resources that give dimension to this process: 21.0 million ha of agricultural land and forest (out of which 14.8 million ha of useful agricultural surface and 6, 2 million forest land), 10.2 million inhabitants in rural areas, out of which 3.5 million rural labor force and 90% of national land represents rural area. The process of transition from super-centralized economy to market economy has generated many economic and social problems for the Romanian agriculture and rural development. Therefore, the concerns about finding solutions and ways of solving them require a modern approach that takes into account the fact that rural areas have a wide variety of local resources whose upper turning on sustainability, leads to its development. Thus we can state that rural development is a major economic, social and cultural component, a priority for the integration of Romania into EU economic structures, which requires rendering the structures and the agricultural performance compatible with the West-European ones.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The development and preparation of rural area is characterized by complexity and involves creating a balance between the need to preserve the

[22] Zahiu L., Dachin A., 2001, Politici agroalimentare comparate, Editura Economică, Bucureşti.

[23] M.A. Zaman – „Quelques aspects du developement rural integré", în volumul „Raport sur le Simposium international FAO/SIDA/SDE sur le development rural integré"ténu a Berlin Reicherwerder, 19-23 sept. 1977, FAO, Roma, 1978.

economic, ecological and socio-cultural area and the tendency to "modernize" the rural life, based on the principal objective of each country, to maintain and preserve the national character of the rural space[24]. In this respect, rural policy must ensure the sustainable development of rural space for which it is built, starting from these main principles and directions:

- Prioritize rural development in the overall development of the society, important leverage in order to diminish the rural exodus, combat poverty, stimulate labor force, protect and improve the rural areas;
- Integrated approach to activities that provide a multidisciplinary character and diverse implementation of sustainable development;
- The principle of concentration and differentiation in favor of areas with the greatest needs;
- Fostering private sector development;
- The subsidiary principle which seeks decentralization of countryside management and development of activities based on partnership and collaboration between all levels of responsibility: local, regional, European;
- The simplifying principle which aims at ensuring a greater coherence of activities;
- Develop unique programs for rural development in areas characterized by consistency and transparency, which would represent a unique tool for the rural development of the community;
- Finance rural development programs;
- Strengthen management capacity and effectiveness of local and regional authorities as well as that of local community groups;
- Evaluation and research.

Achieving sustainable rural development is subject to numerous factors, in the middle of which there are people who can influence the course of the economic rural life and who can participate in a sustainable development of rural areas, being found in all structures: community member, elected by the local community (Mayor), government, parliament, civil society. In order to achieve this rural development policies are required, as well as the settlement of strategies that take into account the local diagnosis, the real evaluation of economic and social life of the

[24] Iagaru R., Iagaru P., 2009, *Rural development in the European context*, - Sibiu Alma Mater University Journals Seria A. Economic Sciences ISSN 2065 - 2372

individual and of the community, of government programs and policy guidelines[25].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The beginning of the millennium emphasizes the concern of mankind to promote agricultural development through a number of ways by funding research activities, providing services and other helping forms by stimulating the production through aid grants, etc. Agricultural development has had positive effects both on the increase in agricultural production and the contribution of the agricultural sector to society in general, but also negative effects such as increased agricultural pollution and degradation of quality of some micro-regions[26]. In response to this situation, agriculture researchers seek with endeavor an "ideal" change for a less polluting and energy intensive ecosystem. The idea of sustainable agriculture consists of raising its productivity and obtaining reliable and consistent profits with minimal negative effects on the environment and ensuring food security of the population. Sustainable agriculture must be based both on the tasks, requirements and aspirations of the farmers themselves, but also on the restrictions they are facing, not only in farming, but also in domestic and non-agricultural activities[27]. Keeping the balance in the production factors, their scientific quantification in accordance with the biological requirements of plants and with local climatic conditions is essential for sustainable agriculture. In this context, F.A.O. believes that "for a sustainable development, the natural resources must be landscaped and preserved and technical and institutional changes should be made in such a way as to meet the needs of current and future generations. From the above stated it emerges the notion that sustainable agriculture and rural development require major changes in worldwide agricultural, environmental and ecological policies. Thus, sustainable agriculture as the main economic sector of the rural areas should be promoted with the following principles [28]:

[25] Şt. Mitrache – Dezvoltarea durabilă rurală, Editura Planeta, 2000.
[26] Rădulescu Carmen Valentina, 2003 - Dezvoltarea durabilă şi implicaţiile economico-financiare ale organizării exploataţilor agricole. Editura ASE, Bucureşti.
[27] Răuță, C,1997, *Agricultura durabilă în România,* în „Ştiința solului", Soil Science, XXXI, Bucureşti.
[28] Mărăcineanu F., Hoinaru M., Elena Constantin, 2004, Concepte privind dezvoltarea rurală durabilă a județului Ialomița, Editura Star tipp, Slobozia

- Environmental protection of natural resources by maintaining production potential without destroying other species;
- Rendering profitable agricultural crops through the possibility of practicing long-term agricultural activities;
- Providing the necessary products, especially their quality;
- Promoting fairness and human features of agricultural activities;
- To be socially accepted and to promote ethics;

Sustainable Agriculture can be a guarantee of stability through which success can be achieved in order to strengthen the sustainability of food security and safety, so necessary for the tranquility and prosperity of our nation, and for that it must ensure:

- Prevention of ecological damage caused by applying the Law of Agricultural Land Resources irrespective of land geomorphology;
- Stimulate land use of agricultural lands in farms, associations, etc. whose dimensions facilitate the application of advanced technologies including techniques of sustainability;
- Improvement of technical training of farmers;
- Creating the legal framework to equalize the farmers' income to that of other economic sectors;
- Preventing and combating the degradation of soil, water and biodiversity.

Technological recommendations for a sustainable agriculture

Sustainable agriculture must be economically viable, ecologically "healthy" and socially equitable [29] and sustainable agricultural exploitations must meet these three objectives as well as possible, considering their territorial context and their own agricultural system [30].

The goal of a sustainable agriculture is raising its productivity with obtaining reliable and consistent profits, with minimal adverse environmental impacts, while ensuring food security of the population, biological stability of plants and cultivated varieties, preservation and protection of natural resources, but also introduction, and widespread of modern technologies as productive as possible. in order to obtain this, the

[29] Vilain, L., Metoda IDEA. Indicatorii durabilității exploatațiilor agricole. Ghid de utilizare, Editura Educagri, Dijon, 2003.

[30] Lazăr I., Maria Mortan, V., Vereş, - Un posibil model de evaluare a durabilității exploatațiilor agricole din zona de nord vest a României, Transylvanian Review of Administrative Sciences, 20/2007, pp. 52-67

economic framework plays an important role as it can determine the sustainability of agricultural production systems.

To the achievement of sustainable agriculture, an important role is played by the design of farming systems, that rely both on culturally promoting some new species with multiple uses and the realization and qualitative increase in agricultural production, due to high resistance to diseases and pests of the biological resource used (variety and seed quality), following a careful selection and application of the appropriate technologies to facilitate nutrient absorption by crops and use of its genetic capacities of competing with weeds.

Designing a sustainable agricultural system begins with determining the structure and crop rotation and it ends with the execution of the culture plan and the location sketch. The importance of crops rotation in the design of sustainable agriculture is major, as it is the first technological link that responds positively to the regeneration of the main agricultural natural resource – the soil – a major objective of sustainable agriculture.

Culture technologies proposed to be applied represent as well an important component of the sustainable agriculture system, in which special attention will be given to sustainable agriculture techniques. Among these, we mention the role of resources applied to soil where they study the impact they have on the maintenance of physiological and sanitary status, and the productive potential of the plants, as well as on the physical-chemical and microbiological features of the soil. This way it is expected to obtain the maintenance of resources more or less regenerative, such as: soil, quantity and especially quality of water from soil, as well as avoidance of damaging the biodiversity of agro ecosystems.

The sustainable agricultural system is based on the fact that "implementing the concept of sustainable agriculture must be made in accordance with the specific circumstances in Romania[31] and includes a structure formed on the basis of criteria of biological order (productive potential, precocity, natural resistance to the attack of specific diseases and pests), environmental, demands regarding the pedological factors (acidity, clay content, calcium, etc..) and climatic (cold, frost, heat resistance),

[31] Răuță C., 1997, *Agricultura durabilă în România,* în „Ştiința solului", Soil Science, XXXI, Bucureşti.

technical (suitability to sustainable culture systems) and economic (crop period, consumer preferences, degree of complexity in the internal market) with a specific range, and respecting the zoning and micro-zoning criteria.

CONCLUSIONS

Development and planning of the rural area spatial is characterized by complexity and involves creating a balance between the need to preserve the economic, ecological and socio-cultural area and the tendency to "modernize" the rural life, based on the principal objective of each country, to maintain and preserve the national character of the rural space

Sustainable agriculture may constitute a guarantee of stability through which success is registered by strengthening the sustainability of food security and safety, so necessary for the peace and prosperity of our nation.

Keeping the balance in the production factors, their scientific dosage in accordance with the requirements of biological needs of the plants and with the local climatic conditions is essential for sustainable agriculture.

Sustainable agriculture and rural development require major changes in agricultural, environmental and ecological policies, worldwide.

The goal of a sustainable agriculture is raising its productivity with obtaining reliable and consistent profits, with minimal adverse environmental impacts, while ensuring food security of the population, biological stability of plants and cultivated varieties, preservation and protection of natural resources, but also introduction, and widespread of modern technologies as productive as possible. Sustainable development of the rural area requires motivating concerns from the competent organizations in view to accelerate the access and the implementation of European programs for rural development.

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11. **ZAMAN GH., GHERASIM Z.,** 2007, Criterii şi principii ale dezvoltării durabile din punctul de vedere al resurselor acestora, Buletinul AGIR nr. 1/2007 Ianuarie+februarie, pag. 136