THE STUDY OF RURAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT IN THE WEST OF ROMANIA

STUDIUL DEZVOLTĂRII ECONOMIEI RURALE ÎN PARTEA DE VEST A ROMÂNIEI

NICOLETA MATEOC-SÎRB[1], S. ANĂSTĂSOEI[1], T. MATEOC[1], CAMELIA MĂNESCU[1]

[1]Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Timisoara, Agricultural Management Faculty, Timisoara, Romania; mateocnicol@yahoo.com

Abstract: *West Region is an area relatively rich in natural resources, and that lead in time to strong economic development, occupying a high position among the most developed regions of the country. The positive evolution of the region economy is determined by a balanced distribution of economic sectors.*

In what regards the rural space, this is characterized in terms of population with a low population density, demographic decline due to migration and aging population, mortality rate relatively highlow and a low capacity of demographic renewal as a negative natural population growth.

Key words: *agriculture, population, region, economic activities, evolution*

INTRODUCTION

Economic dynamics of the Western Region is the result of a whole complex of factors, most important of which would be higher level of skilled labor force, the cosmopolitan mentality and multi-languages that characterizes an important segment of the region population, the proximity to Western markets and the significant natural resources existant in the region. An important area of economic recovery in West Plain is the agriculture.

In the Timiş County, the agricultural sector supplies real investment opportunities duet o its large areas of agricultural land, the good results in some crops and the important share of the occupied population. To all this we should add a series of important aspects such as the high demand of ecological products and their high added value, non-refundable finances for agriculture and the advantages of penetrating European Community markets. Agriculture shares 25,06% of the population occupied in the county in 2010. This shows the importance of agriculture in

the county's economy and, particularly, for the incomes of the inhabitants.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

To achieve the objectives of this paper, the working method used were: data collection, processing, analysis and interpretation. This paper presents the results obtained by the authors from processing data collected by the Regional Directorate of Statistics Timis and the Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture. After processing the data collected have been achieved representative tables and graphs, has been possible to draw the SWOT analysis based on the strengths, weaknesses, on the opportunities and risks existing in the area and were able to synthesize reliable conclusions regarding the current state of development of the area, and the possibilities of developing.

RESULTS OBTAINED

In the year of 2010, in the West Region, the share of employed population on economic activities it was like follows:

- 25,06% employed population in agriculture;
- 27,09% employed population in industry;
- 5,88% employed population in constructions;
- 14,16% employed population in trade;
- 27,19% employed population in other economy sectors.

There is a very high share of employment in agriculture region, of 25,06%.

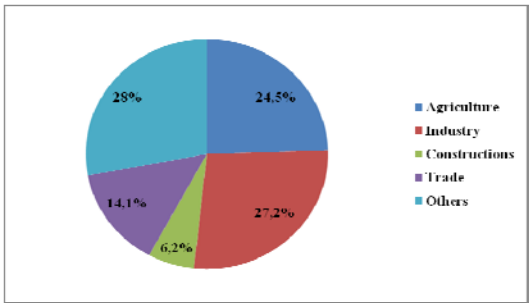


Fig.1. The share of employed population on economic activities, 2010

Unemployment rate fluctuated between 1991 - 2010, from 2.5% in 1991 to 3.3% in 2007 and 6.8 in 2009 when the phenomenon has increased. In 2010 there was a decrease that rate to 5.9%.

Table 1.

The evolution of the unemployment in the West Region

Nr. crt.	Specificație	Șomerii înregistrați (nr. persoane)			Rata șomajului (%)		
		Total	Femei	Bărbați	Total	Femei	Bărbați
1	1991	26419	20147	6272	2,5	4,2	1,1
2	1995	75987	47731	28256	7,5	10,1	5,2
3	2000	95674	45570	50104	10,4	10,4	10,5
4	2001	84751	41116	43635	9,5	9,5	9,5
5	2002	57307	27563	29744	6,6	6,6	6,6
6	2003	60691	26597	34094	7,0	6,5	7,4
7	2004	50695	22181	28514	5,8	5,4	6,2
8	2005	45270	20550	24720	5,1	4,9	5,3
9	2006	35486	15820	19666	4,1	3,8	4,3
10	2007	29470	14612	14858	3,3	3,5	3,1
11	2008	33641	17033	16608	3,8	4,2	3,4
12	2009	64850	44130	20720	6,8	6,8	6,8
13	2010	51177	22899	28278	5,9	5,8	-

Source: Own processing National Institute of Statistics, Statistics of Counties 2009, Statistical Yearbook of Romania, Territorial Statistics 2011;

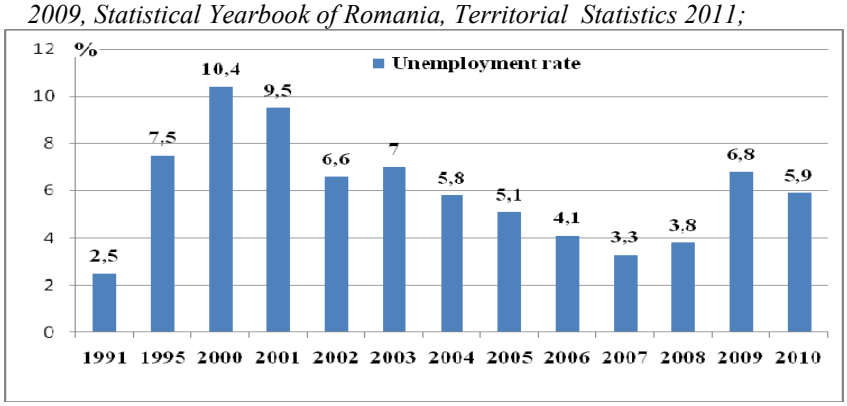


Fig. 2. Evolution of unemployment rate in West Region

Agricultural potential of the West Region is based on fertile agricultural lands, especially on the existence of soils that due to high humus content are the most fertile soils for crop production. Large spread of this type of soils in the West Region, and its high fertility transformed

Western Plain in the country's second largest agricultural area after Baragan Plain.

Table 2.

The evolution of land by use category in the West Region, -ha-

Nr. crt.	Anii	Supraf. totală	Agricolă	din care, pe categorii de folosință:				
				Arabilă	Pășuni	Fânețe	Vii	Livezi
1	1990	3203317	1961074	1126721	552026	234466	11679	36182
2	1995	3203317	1961906	1098540	588608	232017	10562	32179
3	2000	3203317	1960766	1096587	590485	232406	9603	31685
4	2001	3203317	1960656	1097337	590065	232121	9466	31667
5	2002	3203317	1958610	1096745	592812	229386	8911	30756
6	2003	3203317	1892888	1089706	554836	211925	8715	27706
7	2004	3203317	1892291	1089644	554349	211978	8694	27626
8	2005	3203317	1891126	1088809	553383	212659	8736	27539
9	2006	3203317	1890124	1087784	553276	212762	8833	27469
10	2007	3203317	1888329	1087669	551392	213013	8831	27424
11	2008	3203317	1886429	1083273	554641	212537	8649	27329
12	2009	3203317	1886915	1090197	550236	210541	8573	27368
13	2010	3203317	1872375	1089780	337522	211528	8181	25364

Source: Own processing National Institute of Statistics, Statistics of Counties 2009, Statistical Yearbook of Romania, Territorial Statistics 2011;

Following the evolution of land fund in the West Region during 1990-2010 there can be noticed the fact that the surface decreased in all categories of use, but more pronounced decreases were found in vineyards and orchards categories.

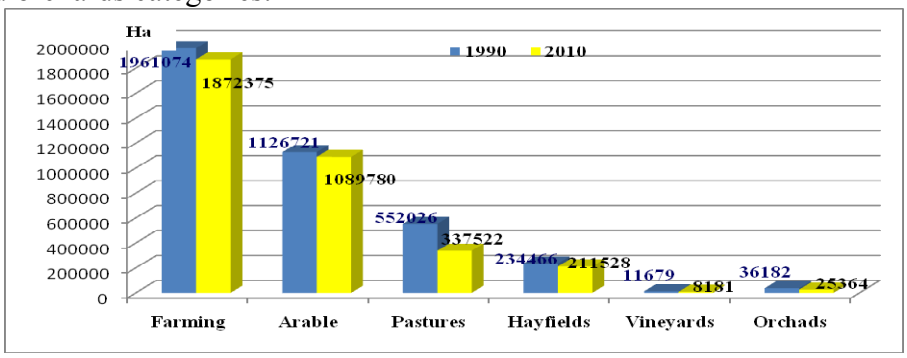


Fig. 3. The evolution of land fund by use categories in the West Region, 2010

The agriculture in Timis and Arad counties plays an important role in the region economy as a whole, with crucial implications over the population's living standards and food safety.

In all cultures there was a decrease in cultivated areas during 1990-2010.

Table 3

The evolution of cultivated area in the West Region

hectare

Nr. crt.	Anii	Supraf. totală	Cereale boabe	din care:			Plante uleioase	Sfeclă de zahăr	Cartofi	Legume
				Grâu şi secară	Orz şi orzoaică	Porumb boabe				
1	1990	1106007	675392	256532	97013	294018	88372	20996	31522	27730
2	1995	1083861	803680	333408	113087	310567	77727	15247	25563	26684
3	2000	879705	639042	190384	70805	336347	72345	3123	28168	29859
4	2002	1004088	708117	223598	86557	352268	85630	3614	31325	32331
5	2004	973373	795589	303847	77128	356357	85135	957	29895	28994
6	2005	908639	677994	264202	71580	301082	79271	2395	31594	29255
7	2006	851934	614103	233751	60903	282335	98615	2464	31203	32638
8	2007	765327	550619	226835	33112	261633	93706	461	29422	29837
9	2008	789867	578529	207445	43306	285506	79704	643	29173	33935
10	2009	779853	588357	215764	43510	288660	59835	641	31002	30582
11	2010	761427	555902	219902	33339	265006	82796	562	30562	29182

Source: Own processing National Institute of Statistics, Statistics of Counties 2009, Statistical Yearbook of Romania, Territorial Statistics 2011;

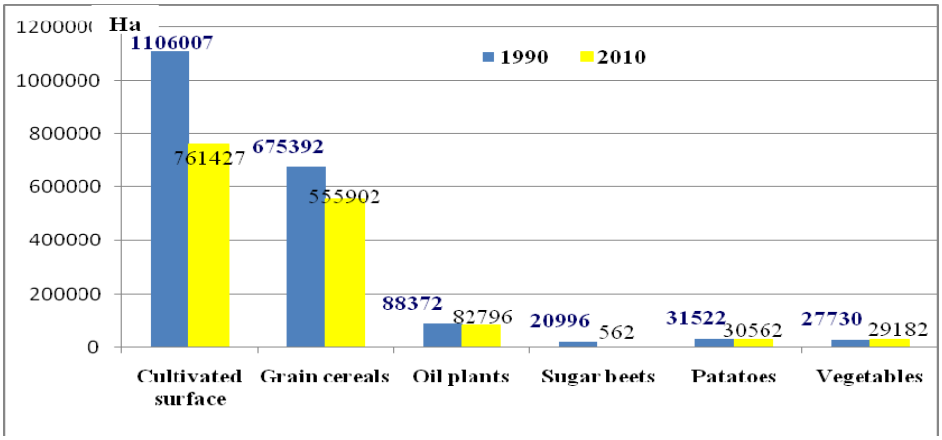


Fig. 4. The evolution of cultivated area in West Region

Table 4.

The evolution of livestock in the Western Region

capete

Nr. crt.	Specificație	Bovine		Porcine		Ovine	
		Total, din care:	vaci, bivolițe și juninci	Total, din care:	scroafe prăsilă	Total, din care:	oi și mioare
1	1990	535900	201800	2119500	152200	1569900	924400
2	1995	314665	170439	1233435	102253	1166554	837740
3	2000	250170	143376	638010	47137	957579	681886
4	2001	241801	142813	539539	45829	911724	690224
5	2002	239050	142376	610676	42388	927567	691109
6	2003	237739	142013	649017	45412	957358	717392
7	2004	218478	136109	747080	67521	1044387	855114
8	2005	225275	146554	772193	83728	1047559	873134
9	2006	237912	154513	946187	111636	1078478	889317
10	2007	221939	142908	968022	101508	1136577	844543
11	2008	207235	132213	931416	84523	1143286	902629
12	2009	184915	118579	919125	82428	1203825	957851
13	2010	152492	103907	925307	82924	1269939	1040137

Source: Own processing National Institute of Statistics, Statistics of Counties 2009, Statistical Yearbook of Romania, Territorial Statistics 2011;

Animals livestock in the West Region are below the national average and continues declining from 1990 untill 2010 in all species, even that there is in the region a growth potential of livestock and zootechinic production given by pastures and meadows existent in the region.

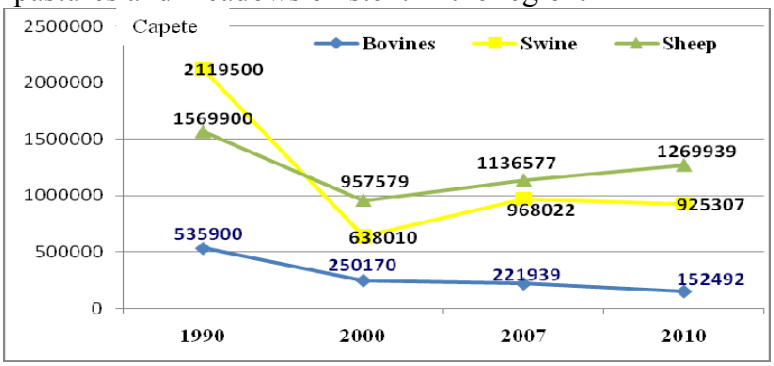


Fig. 5. Evolution of livestock in the West Region

In terms of rural development, SWOT analysis provides a complete picture of the rural area through the concomitant study of its internal characteristics anf of the and external influences exerted on it, therefore in the study area we tried to synthesize the strengths, weaknesses, the opportunities and threats to agriculture domain.

The SWOT analysis helps to assess the situation on the ground, being so the first step in achieving agricultural development strategies in the west area of the country.

Table 6

The SWOT analysis of agriculture in the West area

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
High share of agricultural area per inhabitant in Timis and Arad counties	Weak trend of association	The possibility of accessing funds for development of small farms (2-8 ESU subsistence arms)	Aging workforce in rural areas
Potential for increasing livestock and livestock production	The lack of alternative crops and monoculture crop, especially in cereals (wheat and corn)	The appearance of EAFRD funds for rural areas and compensation payments	Law performance of the agricultural consultancy
Good quality of the agricultural land in the plains area	The lack of storage-recovery routes for agricultural products	The possibility of association of farmers	Difficult living conditions in agricultural areas
Tradition in agriculture practice	Low productivity in agriculture caused by fragmentation of privately owned land,improper irrigation, many small farms have not adapted work by area	Increased interest in rural tourism and agrotourism	Preservation of traditional methods in farming and livestock
The existence of areas with a tradition of growing fruit trees and grape-vine	The existence of unused and uncultivated arable land under private property	Still low price of agricultural land	Reduced employment opportunities in rural areas in other sectors than agriculture
The important of forest resources in Caras-Severin and Hunedoara counties	The educational offer is not adapted to market requirements, there are nomechanisms for forecasting and needs identification	Development in all counties of the region of a database in order to correlat of supply and demand on the labor market	Young population decline and population aging
Regionaldependency ratio is lower than the national	The lack of effective partnerships between schools and businesses	Increasing labor market determined by the regional economic growth	Fluctuations in the labor market depends on market movements European /world, so for large enterprises, especially for small and medium

CONCLUSIONS

The West Region has the lowest number of population of all regions, is also the only region with a population of lower than two million inhabitants.

Agricultural potential of the West Region is based on fertile agricultural lands, especially on the existence of soils that due to high humus content are the most fertile soils for crop production. Large spread of this type of soils in the West Region, and its high fertility transformed Western Plain in the country's second largest agricultural area after Baragan Plain.

The agriculture in Timis and Arad counties plays an important role in the region economy as a whole, with crucial implications over the population's living standards and food safety.

The West Region is considered to be a growing region, with national economic performance above average, often in second place after Bucharest-Ilfov region.

Diversification of rural economy and improving the life quality of rural areas represents an objective of economic and social policy integrated into the whole of revitalization, consolidation and rural development policies.

The SWOT analysis helps to assess the situation on the ground, being the first step in achieving agricultural development strategies in the west area of the country.

REFERENCES

1. MAN, T.E., MATEOC-SÎRB, NICOLETA, 2008 - *Dezvoltarea rurală şi regională durabilă a satului românesc*, Editura Politehnica, Timişoara;
2. TOTH, GH. C., 2011,Teză de doctorat, S*tudii privind dezvoltarea durabila în Câmpia de Vest a României prin diversificarea economiei rurale*, Timişoara;
3. *** Anuarul Statistic al României, Statistici teritoriale 2011;
4. *** INS, Direcția regională de statistică Timiş, 2010.