AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES AND ORGANISATIONAL FORMS IN ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE

STRUCTURI AGRICOLE ŞI FORME ORGANIZATORICE ÎN AGRICULTURA ROMÂNIEI

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Abstract: *During the times the agricultural structures and organisational forms in Romanian agriculture suffered modifications. These modifications, emerging in the last two decades of the transition, are reflected by the results of the General Agricultural Census from the years 2002 and 2010. In this paper facts and information are analysed taking into account agricultural structures and organisational forms obtained from the General Agricultural Census from 2010 in comparison with the one from 2002.*

Keywords: *agriculture, exploitation, agricultural surface*

INTRODUCTION

During the communism the agriculture of Romania was organised mostly in state owned enterprises (SOE) and agricultural cooperatives which, on the eve of the transition in 1989, controlled more than 85% of the total agricultural land. In spite of the forced collectivisation from 1949-1962 private agriculture never disappeared and was represented by a multitude of small, individual farms and parcels near the farms, of which the rural population, in great number, cultivated approximately 15% of the agricultural land, mainly for sustenance.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The authors of this study applied as a working method: data collection, processing, analyse and formation of conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The utilisation structure of the lands changed in a substantial mode during the two decades of the transition. The surface of lands of agricultural exploitations from the individual sector increased from 15% in 1989 to almost 56% in 2010 (**Table 1**), from which a portion of 3% is cultivated by authorised individuals, individual and family enterprises registered in conformity with GEO no.44/2009. Cooperative sector disappeared almost entirely: agricultural cooperatives of production (as well as some state farms) changed into different corporations, which today control approximately 44% of the agricultural land including agricultural associations, private commercial societies and remains of the old state sector, local public authorizations and other institutions. The agricultural surface harnessed by agricultural cooperatives represents only 0,06% of the total utilised agricultural surface.

Table 1

Agricultural exploitations, harnessed agricultural surfaces and harnessed agricultural surface which returns in average on an agricultural exploitation, after the legal status of agricultural exploitations

Legal status of agricultural exploitations	Total agricultural exploitations (number)	Agricultural exploitations which utilise agricultural surface (number)	Harnessed agricultural surface (hectare)	Harnessed agricultural surface, which returns in average (hectare)	
				On an agricultural exploitation	On an agricultural exploitation which uses agricultural surface
Agricultural exploitation without legal personality	**3825576**	**3691669**	**7445336,63**	**1,95**	**2,02**
Individual agricultural exploitations	3820393	3686698	7154136,94	1,87	1,94

Legal status of agricultural exploitations	Total agricultural exploitations (number)	Agricultural exploitations which utilise agricultural surface (number)	Harnessed agricultural surface (hectare)	Harnessed agricultural surface, which returns in average (hectare)	
				On an agricultural exploitation	On an agricultural exploitation which uses agricultural surface
Authorised persons, individual and family enterprises	5183	4971	291199,69	56,18	58,58
Agricultural exploitation with legal personality	**30669**	**30216**	**5852854,26**	**190,84**	**193,70**
Autonomous settlements	50	50	16170,65	323,41	323,41
Agricultural societies/associations	1390	1379	556785,69	400,57	403,76
Commercial societies with majority of private fund	16410	16015	3169418,39	193,14	197,90
Commercial societies with majority of state fund	72	72	3553,99	49,36	49,36
Institutions, research stations, educational institutions with agricultural profile	177	175	50976,71	288,00	291,30
Local council/Town hall	2722	2721	1566747,77	575,59	575,80
Other public institutions	353	349	32062,61	90,83	91,87
Cooperative unities	68	67	8176,22	120,24	122,03
Other types (foundations, religious institutions, schools)	9427	9388	448962,23	47,63	47,82
TOTAL:	**3856245**	**3721885**	**13298190,89**	**3,45**	**3,57**

Source: General Agricultural Census, 2010, Provisional results.

Until the General Agricultural Census from 2002 did not exist a solid statistical base of the agricultural structures and of the evolution of surface utilisation structures. The first agricultural census has as a result the acquisition of pertinent information respecting the agricultural situation. In **Table 1,** there are briefly presented the main results of the second General Agricultural Census realised in 2010, as regards the agricultural structures functioning in the sector. Reflects the dual structure of agriculture where

approximately 56% of the agricultural surfaces are utilised by the individual sector and by individual farms; the rest, 44% being utilised by different categories of legal unities.

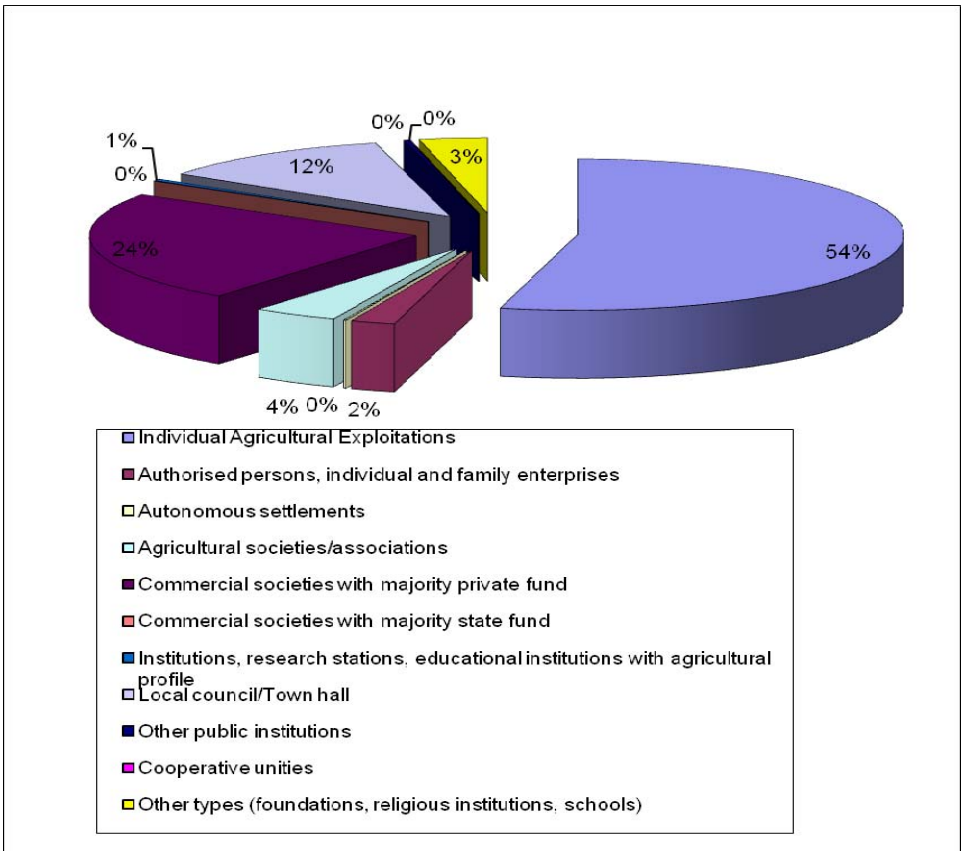


Figure 1. –Agricultural exploitations according to their legal status

The sector of individuals or the sector of individual farms in 2010 involved 3,82 million of agricultural exploitations with an average size of 1,95 ha, as opposed to the 4,5 million of agricultural exploitations with an average size of 1,73 ha. that existed in 2002.

From the total number of exploitations mentioned above, approximately 134.000 exploitations are registered in the GAC 2010 as zoo-

technical exploitations or other types which do not cultivate agricultural surfaces. Thus the average agricultural surface harnessed by individual agricultural exploitations which use agricultural land is about 2,02 ha. In the GAC 2002 the registered number of exploitations which did not cultivate agricultural surface was 185.000.

In the GAC 2010 were registered authorised persons, individuals, as well as family enterprises having agricultural activity. These do not have legal personality but are registered in Register of Commerce on the basis of GEO no.44/2009. The number of these is still low and the agricultural surface used by these exploitations represents about 2% but is in permanent increase, taking into account that most of the types of support, as well as the accessing of the projects in the cadre of EAFRD, are conditioned by the existence of these forms.

Another main component of the Romanian agriculture is represented by the agricultural exploitations classified as having legal personality. According to the census from 2002 existed almost 22.000 units (with an average size of 274 ha. per exploitation), whose legal status can be classified in several categories:

- Agricultural associations (with legal personality, on the structure of agricultural cooperatives of production from the communist period, vegetal production being their main activity), in total 2261 unities with an average size of 431ha.
- Commercial societies (mainly private vegetal farms or those which exploit lands leased by the state, or purchased, or rented from the proprietors imputed after 1991), in total 6318 unities, with an average size of 353 ha; this subcomponent includes, with a low magnitude, agricultural enterprises controlled by the state (successors of the former SOE) which have a tendency to gradually decrease after 2002.
- Unities of the public administration (especially communal pastures administered by local or centred administrative unities) in total 5698 unities with an average size of 503 ha.
- Other types of exploitations (NGOs, religious institutions and some cooperative unities) in total 8575 unities with an average size of 25 ha.

In the GAC 2010 the number of agricultural exploitations with legal personality increased significantly opposed to 2002 and represents 30669 unities and the average agricultural surface harnessed is 190,84 ha.

- The number of agricultural associations constituted on the structure of former agricultural cooperatives decreased towards the year 2002 and represents 1390 unities with an average agricultural surface utilised of 400 ha. Some of these associations were abolished and were reorganised as commercial societies with agricultural activity.
- The result of this fact, but also of the tendency of increase in renting lands, the number of commercial societies with private fund considerably increased, being 16410 now, with 10000 above than in 2002. But the agricultural surface harnessed by these societies is less than 193 ha. This decline is attributable to the division of large farms, constituted initially by the privatisation of SOEs in farms of small dimension.
- Unities of local and centred public administration registered in GAC 2010 have a number of 2722 with an average agricultural surface of 575 ha.

CONCLUSIONS

There can be observed a decrease in the number of individual agricultural exploitations and a mild increase of the average size of the surfaces harnessed by these exploitations. Again the number of agricultural exploitations with legal personality increased significantly towards 2002.

The decrease of the number of public administrative unities regarding to the one registered in 2002 is attributable to the fact that in many cases pastures administered communal by town halls/local councils are given in concession or in the usage of animal breeding associations.

REFERENCES

1. General Agricultural Census 2002
2. General Agricultural Census 2010, Provisional Results