



UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES "KING MIHAI I" FROM
TIMISOARA
"YOUNG PEOPLE AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
IN APPLIED LIFE SCIENCES"



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research in applied life sciences"

21-22 November 2024

A STUDY OF ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE: EVOLUTIONS AND TRENDS

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Abstract: This study examines the evolution and current trends in Romanian agriculture, focusing on key reforms and Romania's integration into the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy. Through a comprehensive bibliographic analysis, the research highlights significant agricultural transformations and their implications for the sector's future. The methodology includes a quantitative analysis of agricultural holdings, changes in the workforce, and crop production trends, utilizing recent statistical data to provide a clear overview of the current state of agriculture in Romania. Key findings indicate that despite challenges, the agricultural sector is witnessing notable advancements, particularly regarding agricultural productivity and sustainability. The conclusions emphasize the need for ongoing reforms and strategic planning to enhance the competitiveness of Romanian agriculture within the European context.

• Introduction

Agriculture is a key pillar of Romania's economy, crucial for food security, economic growth, and social cohesion. The country boasts significant agricultural potential due to its diverse geography and climate. However, Romanian agriculture has undergone major transformations in recent decades, influenced by internal political and economic changes and the integration into the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). EU accession in 2007 provided access to funding and markets but also brought new challenges through EU regulations. While Romania has favorable natural conditions for agriculture, challenges such as land fragmentation, low technology adoption, and limited investment hinder its full potential. Despite these obstacles, agriculture remains a vital sector with significant growth opportunities.

• Material and method

The analysis was based on a review of specialized literature, including books and scientific papers. Data was processed using Microsoft Excel to organize and create tables and charts. Sources included the National Institute of Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook of Romania, Eurostat, and other relevant publications. This approach provided a clear understanding of Romanian agriculture trends, identifying key challenges and supporting conclusions for future development in Romania and Europe.

Agricultural production in Romania has seen both increases and fluctuations in cultivated areas and output. Cereal and vegetable production has grown, though production levels are influenced by climatic and economic factors. CAP has supported investments in infrastructure, farmers to access more efficient and eco-friendly technologies.

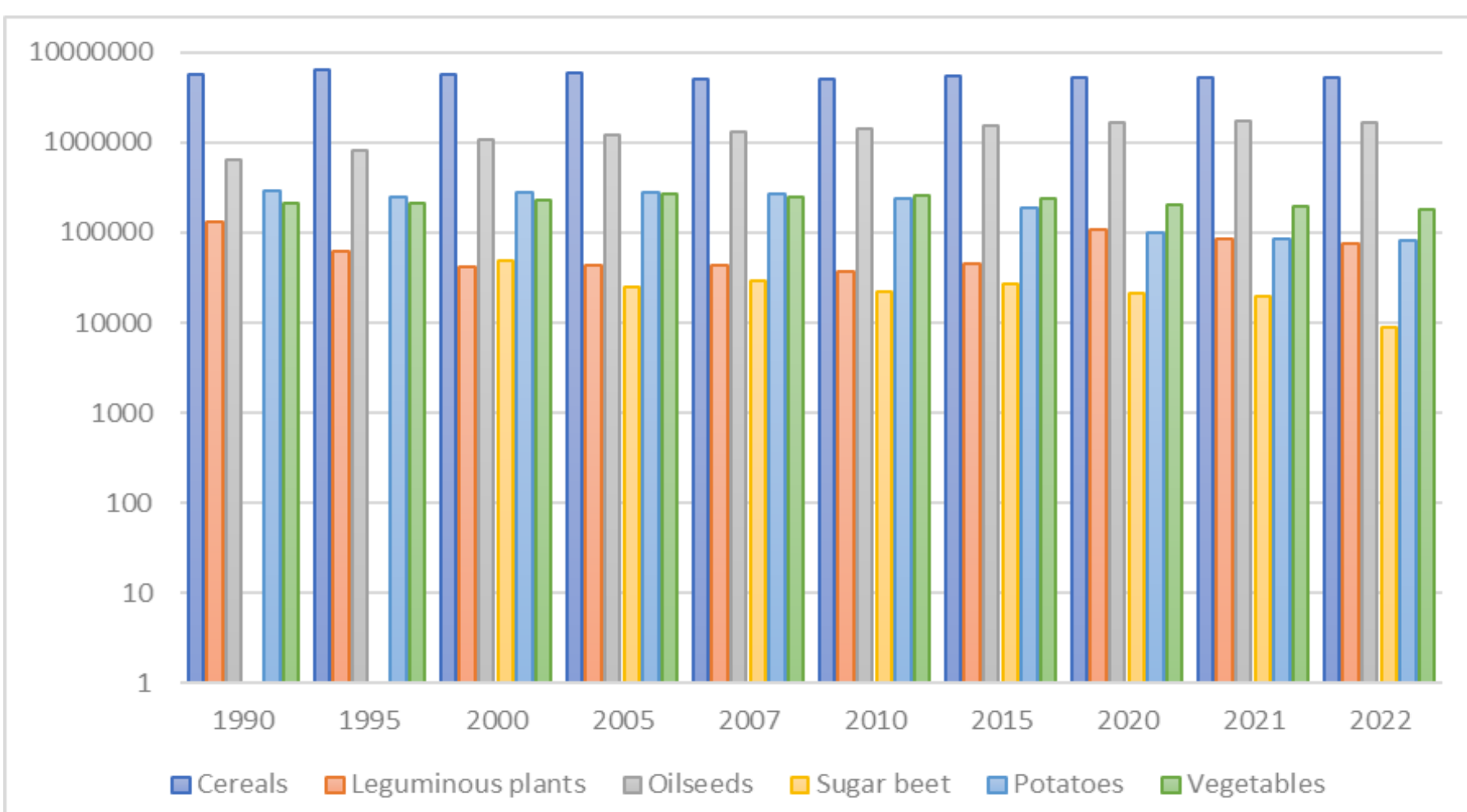


Figure 2. The evolution of the areas cultivated with main crops in Romania between 1990 and 2022.

• Conclusions

The study of Romanian agriculture highlights both challenges and opportunities for development. Post-communist reforms led to land fragmentation, which hindered efficiency, but EU integration and the adoption of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) have supported modernization and improved infrastructure. However, adapting to European standards and market competition remains a key challenge. The decline in the agricultural workforce and the trend toward larger, more efficient farms call for targeted policies to support small and medium-sized farms, young farmers, and workforce renewal. Investments in technology, research, and precision agriculture are essential for boosting productivity and sustainability.

Promoting sustainable farming practices and climate adaptation measures is crucial for developing a resilient agricultural sector. Continued support for innovation, knowledge transfer, and professional training will enhance competitiveness and ensure the sector's future growth. This study provides valuable insights and practical recommendations for strengthening Romania's agricultural sector in alignment with EU policies.

• Results and discussions

The analysis of Romanian agriculture highlighted both progress and challenges. While the number of agricultural holdings and utilized agricultural area have increased, land fragmentation remains a significant issue, impacting the sector's efficiency and competitiveness. The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has played a key role in supporting farmers, encouraging modernization and promoting sustainable practices. The agricultural workforce has declined over the years, primarily due to rural-to-urban migration and slow technological adoption. However, agriculture remains essential for the rural economy, with CAP providing training and subsidies to help develop a more skilled workforce suited to modern agricultural needs.

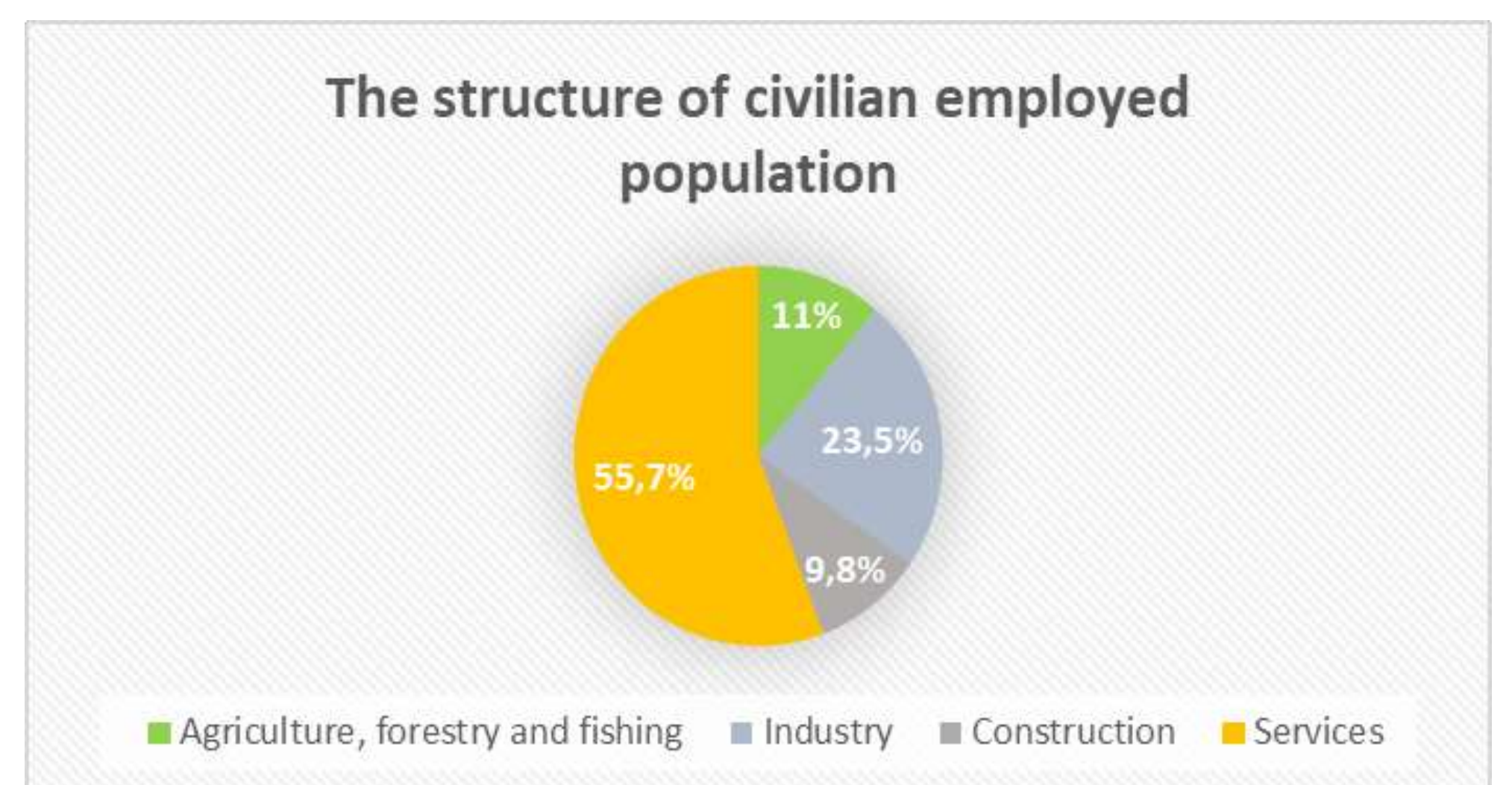


Figure 1. The structure of civilian employed population

In livestock farming, the number of animals has decreased as senablingmaller, subsistence farms have been replaced by larger, industrialized ones. However, CAP has helped modernize the sector by promoting sustainable practices and integrating farms into a more competitive agricultural system. These trends highlight both the opportunities from EU integration and the ongoing challenges facing Romanian agriculture. While CAP has been crucial in supporting the shift to a more modern and sustainable agricultural system, significant challenges remain in fully realizing Romania's agricultural potential.

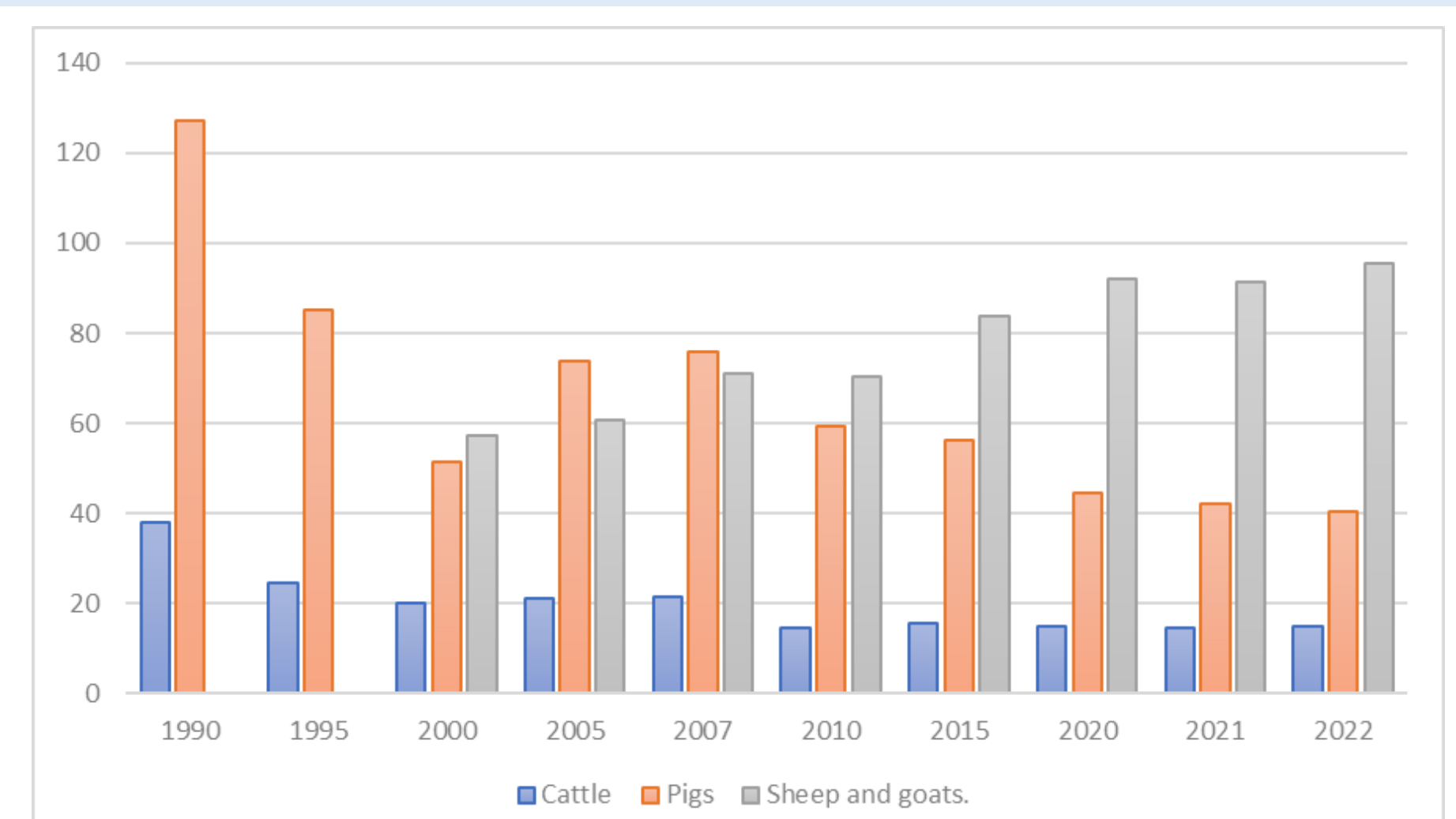


Figure 3. Animals per 100 hectares of land in Romania, between 1990 and 2022.