



EVOLUTIONS OF AREAS CULTIVATED WITH VINES AND OF THE GRAPE PRODUCTION IN ROMANIA

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Abstract: The paper analyzes the evolution of the areas cultivated with vines and grape production in Romania, during the period 1961–2023, based on statistical data from official sources. The study aims to identify the main stages of development of the wine sector and highlight the changes that occurred under the influence of economic and institutional transformations. The results highlight a period of significant expansion between 1960 and 1989, marked by the constant increase in cultivated areas and the intensification of production, followed by a sharp reduction after 1990, determined by the transition to a market economy, the fragmentation of property and the decline in investments. After Romania's accession to the European Union, reconversion and modernization programs contributed to the reorientation of the sector towards quality and economic efficiency, even if the areas continued to decrease. The analysis reveals a trend of stabilization of the average production per hectare, due to the application of modern technologies and the use of high-performance varieties. Overall, the paper provides a clear picture of the transformations of Romanian viticulture, highlighting the transition from an extensive, volume-based model to an intensive and sustainable one, oriented towards performance and competitiveness.

• Introduction

Viticulture is one of the oldest and most important branches of Romanian agriculture, with a tradition that stretches back several centuries and is closely linked to the cultural and economic identity of the rural area. Romania benefits from particularly favorable soil and climatic conditions for grape cultivation, ranking among the top European countries in terms of natural potential for the production of quality grapes and wines. The varied relief, soil composition, climatic diversity and the presence of traditional varieties, such as Feteasca Neagră, Feteasca Regală or Grasa de Cotnari, confer specificity and uniqueness to Romanian wine products.

• Material and method

For the purpose of this work, official statistical data on the area under vines and total grape production in Romania were used, for the period 1961–2023. The information comes from the international database Our World in Data, which annually centralizes data provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Eurostat, providing a complete and coherent picture of developments in agriculture at a global level.

• Results and discussions

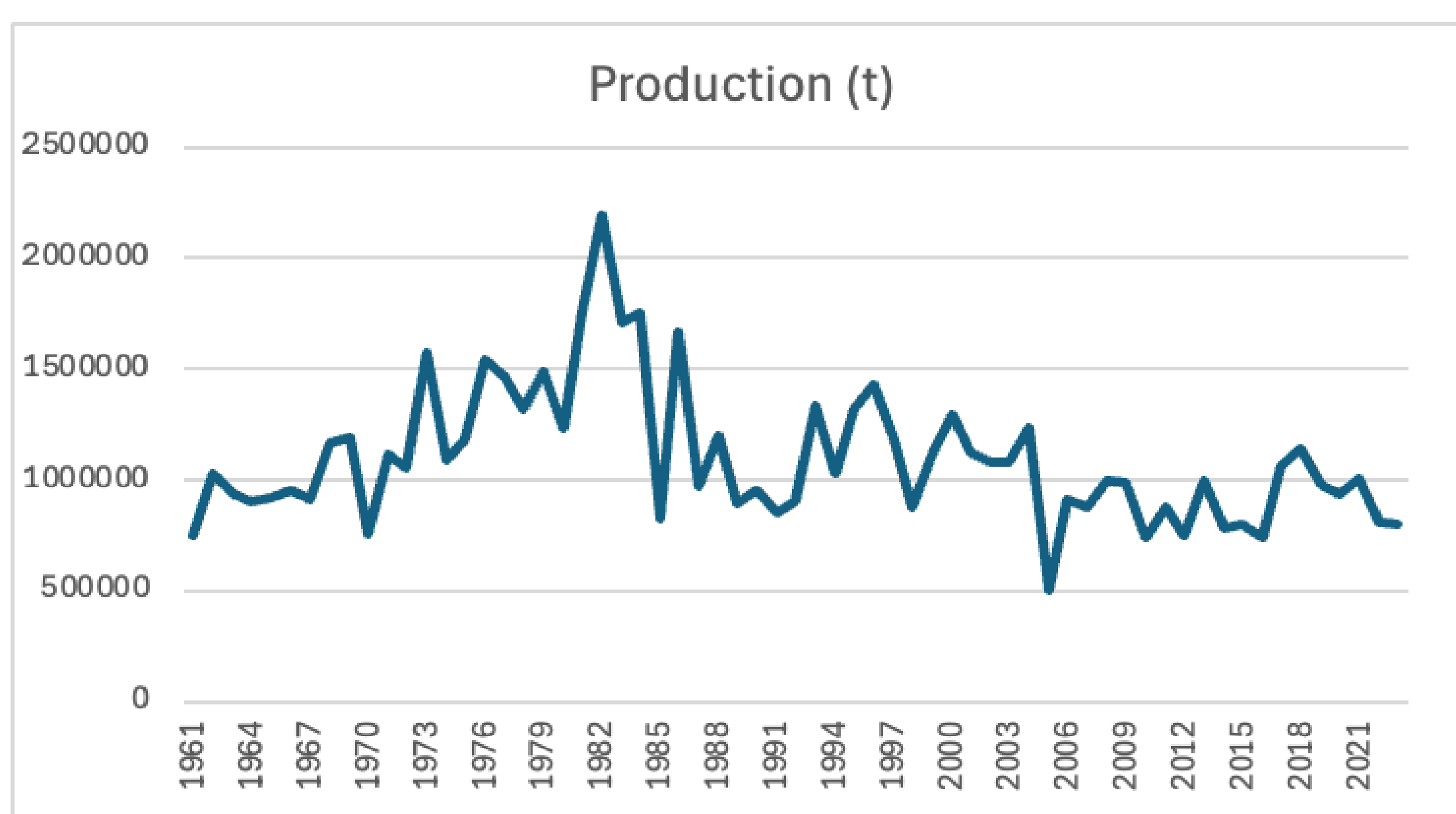


Figure 1. Evolution of total grape production in Romania (1961–2023)

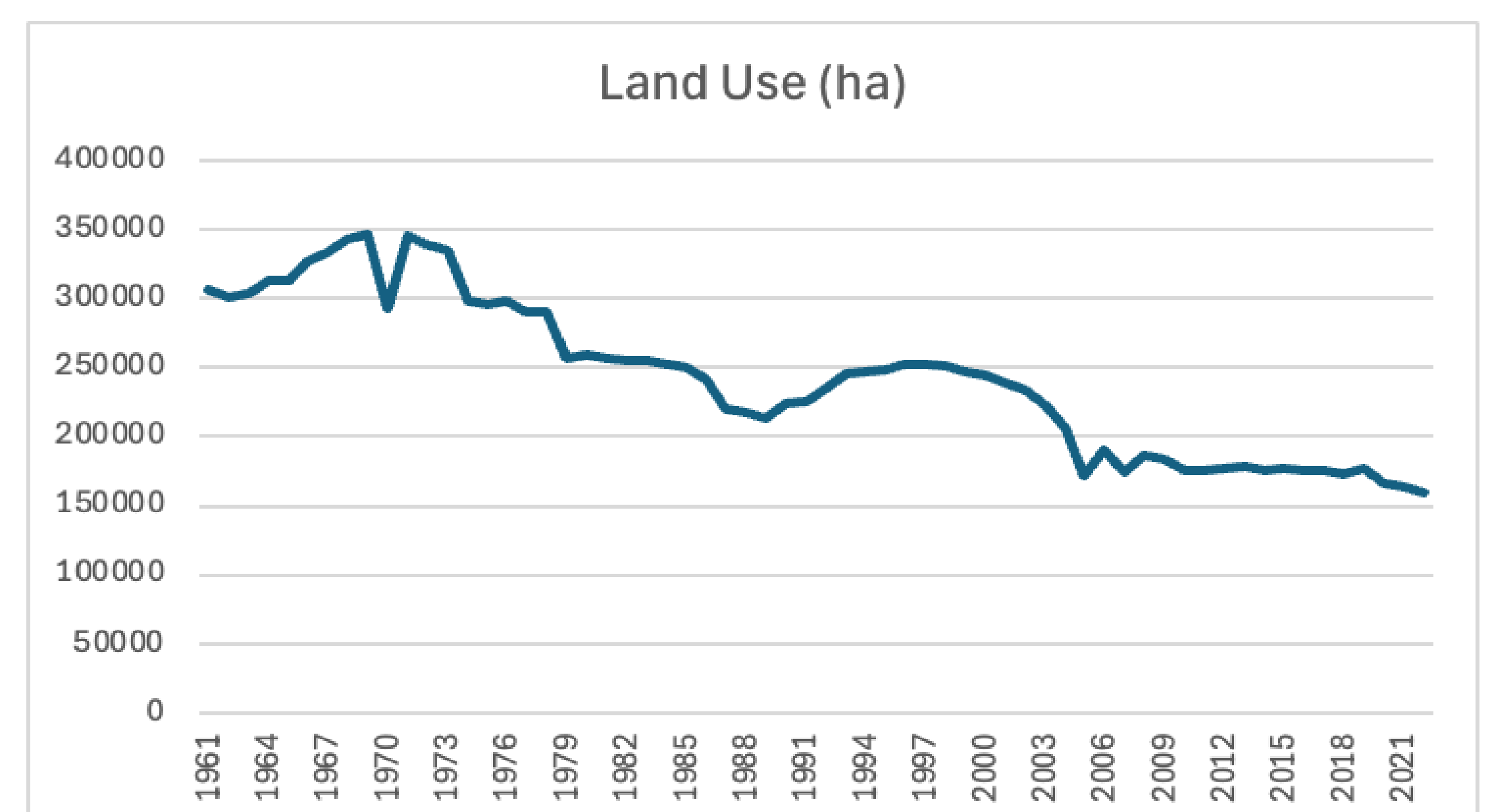


Figure 2. Evolution of the area cultivated with vines in Romania (1961–2022)

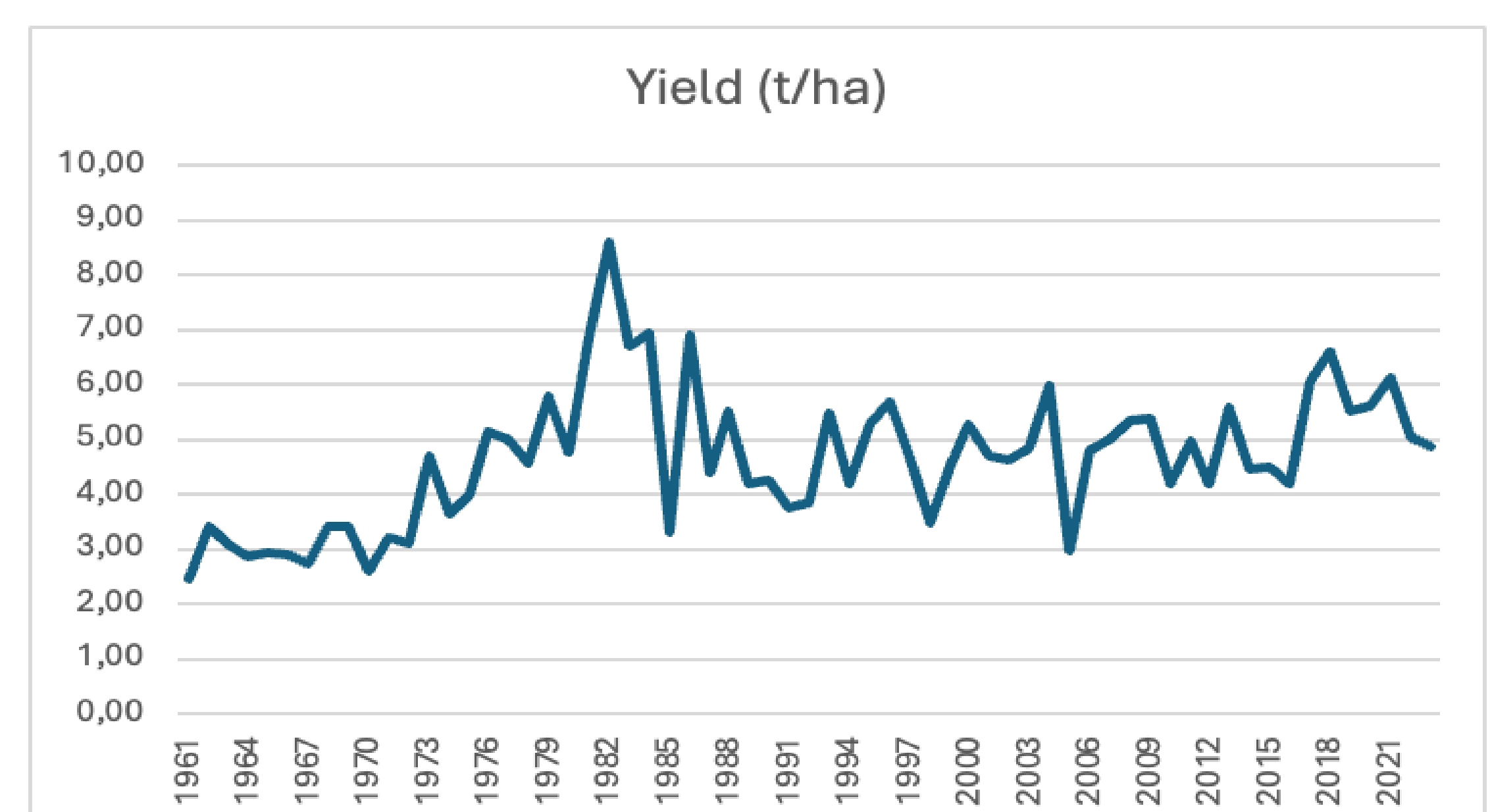


Figure 3. Evolution of average grape production in Romania (1961–2023)

• Conclusions

The analysis of the evolution of areas cultivated with vines and grape production in Romania, during the period 1961–2023, highlights the major transformations that the national wine sector has undergone, in close correlation with the political, economic and institutional context of each historical stage. Overall, the analysis of the period 1961–2023 demonstrates a profound structural transformation of Romanian viticulture, from an extensive, quantity-based model to an intensive one, focused on quality and competitiveness. The wine sector has become increasingly integrated into the European rural economy, with significant development potential through the valorization of local resources, the diversification of production and the promotion of products with geographical indications.