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LEGAL SETTLEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: *This paper analyzes the legal framework governing agricultural management activities in Romania and its impact on the rural development process. Starting from the premise that agriculture represents a fundamental pillar of the rural economy, the research examines how national and European legislation influence the economic efficiency, sustainability and competitiveness of agricultural holdings.*

• Introduction

Agriculture represents one of the fundamental pillars of the national economy, holding strategic importance both through its contribution to food security and through its decisive role in the sustainable development of rural areas. In the current context of economic globalization and the structural transformations occurring within European economies, the legal framework governing the administration and use of agricultural land acquires particular significance, as it directly influences the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, environmental protection, and the social cohesion of rural communities.

• Material and method

The materials used for drafting this paper consist of legal acts and web pages. The methods applied are of a legal nature, including the formal method, the comparative method, the logical method and the analytical method. The use of these methods aimed to conduct a systematic analysis of information from the studied sources, leading to the formulation of viewpoints, research findings, and conclusions.

• Results and discussions

The Constitutional Position as a Fundamental Norm and Its Implications for Agrarian Regulation

The Constitution constitutes the primary source of the entire national normative system, meaning that the adoption, interpretation, and implementation of subsequent laws must conform to constitutional principles and values.

Law No. 45/2009 on the Organization and Functioning of the Agricultural Research and Development System

This law establishes the institutional framework of the national system for research and development in the agricultural, forestry and food sectors. It promotes technological transfer, innovation and the practical application of scientific results.

Law No. 18/1991 on the Land Fund, Republished

This law holds fundamental importance for regulating the legal regime of agricultural land. It represented the main instrument of the restitution and reallocation process of agricultural properties after 1990, profoundly restructuring the Romanian agricultural system.

Law No. 17/2014 on the Sale of Extravilane Agricultural Land

This law regulates the conditions for the transfer of ownership of agricultural land located outside the built-up areas (extravilane), introducing control mechanisms over land transactions and safeguarding national interests concerning land resources.

Law No. 566/2004 on Agricultural Cooperation

This law constitutes a cornerstone of the modernization of Romanian agriculture, regulating the associative forms of agricultural producers.

Law No. 72/2002 on Agricultural Consultancy

This law establishes the National System of Agricultural Consultancy, which is essential for the transfer of knowledge and the modernization of farm management. Agricultural consultancy is approached as a public service designed to support farmers in applying modern technologies and accessing support programs

Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013 on Support for Rural Development (EAFRD)

This regulation is one of the key instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It establishes the mechanisms through which the European Union finances rural development, innovation, environmental protection, and social inclusion.

Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 on CAP Strategic Plans 2023-2027

This regulation redefines the implementation framework of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in a more flexible, performance-oriented manner.

The European Green Deal (2019)

In the agricultural sector, it directly shapes management practices through the "Farm to Fork" and "Biodiversity 2030" strategies.

Dincă, G., *Drept agrar (Agrarian Law)*, C.H. Beck Publishing House, Bucharest, 2016

This work provides a systematic analysis of the fundamental institutions of Romanian agrarian law. The author emphasizes the role of legal regulation in balancing the private interest of landowners with the public interest in protecting natural resources.

Ionescu, D., *Regimul juridic al terenurilor agricole (The Legal Regime of Agricultural Land)*, Hamangiu Publishing House, Bucharest, 2020

A detailed analysis of the legal status of agricultural land from the perspectives of ownership, transactions and use.

Alexandru, D. (coord.), *Tratat de drept agrar român (Treatise on Romanian Agrarian Law)*, Universul Juridic Publishing House, Bucharest, 2019

The work supports the view that agrarian law is a dynamic legal branch, constantly adapting to economic and ecological transformations and thus constitutes a major theoretical reference for the analysis of the agricultural legal framework.

Stanciu, S., *Management și consultanță agricolă (Agricultural Management and Consultancy)*, ASE Publishing House, Bucharest, 2017

A work focused on modern farm management and the role of agricultural consultancy.

Istodor, N., *Economie rurală și dezvoltare durabilă (Rural Economy and Sustainable Development)*, ASE Publishing House, Bucharest, 2020

Analyzes rural economy from the perspective of sustainability and public policy.

Ciutacu, C., *Politica agricolă comună și dezvoltarea rurală în România (The Common Agricultural Policy and Rural Development in Romania)*, Economic Publishing House, Bucharest, 2019

This study analyzes the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in Romania, focusing on its economic and institutional effects.

European Commission, *The Future of Food and Farming*, Brussels, 2022
An EU report outlining the future of agriculture and food policy in the European Union.

• Conclusions

The study highlights that the legal settlement of agricultural management, through national legislation, European regulations and academic doctrines, is not merely a formal framework but a strategic driver of rural development.

In Romania, the success of this framework depends on:

- the capacity of farmers to adopt sustainable practices and modern technologies;
- the efficiency of public institutions and agricultural consultancy;
- the intelligent use of European funds and alignment with the Green Deal;
- cooperation among farmers, authorities and research institutions.

Thus, legality, management and rural development are interdependent: the law creates the framework, consultancy operationalizes it and European and national policies maximize the economic, social and environmental impact - transforming Romanian agriculture into a modern, competitive and sustainable sector.