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THE ROLE OF DIRECT PAYMENTS IN SUPPORTING FARM OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY FROM TIMIȘ COUNTY, ROMANIA

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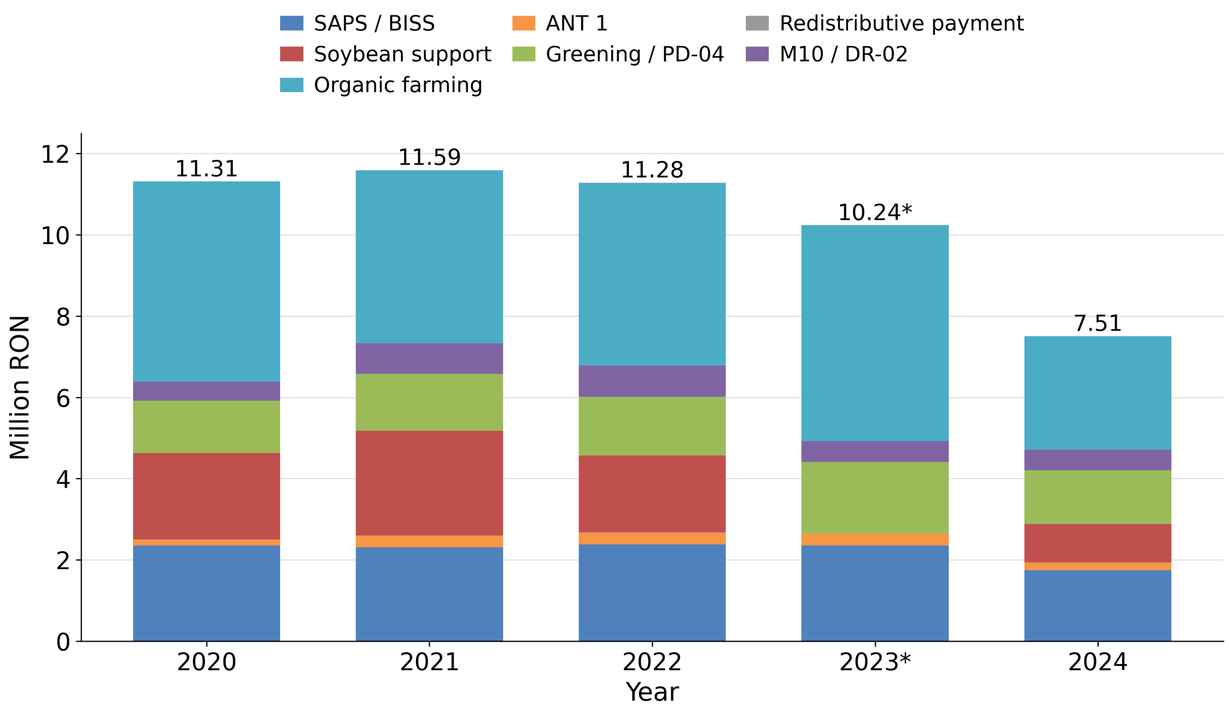
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Abstract: This study examines CAP support for a crop farm in Timiș County, Romania, during 2020–2024. Organic farming maintenance was the largest support component throughout the period. Lower authorised support in 2024 coincided with a substantial reduction in the declared agricultural area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study examines the structure and evolution of CAP support authorised for AGRICOLA ALBA SRL, a crop farm in Timiș County, Romania, during 2020–2024. Annual APIA payment applications and payment decisions were analysed using descriptive indicators, year-on-year comparisons and the shares of individual support schemes in total payments. The analysis covers basic income support, coupled support, transitional national aid, and environmental and organic farming measures.

Structure and evolution of CAP support authorised for AGRICOLA ALBA SRL, 2020–2024



Source: Authors’ calculations based on APIA payment decisions for the 2020–2024 campaigns. *Note:* Coupled support for soybean is not included in the available payment decision for 2023. Its absence from the chart does not indicate a confirmed zero payment.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Agricultural area

The declared area remained close to 5,000 ha during 2020–2023, falling to 3,759.24 ha in 2024 (–24.92% versus 2023).

Evolution of authorised support

Support totalled RON 11.28–11.59 million annually in 2020–2022, RON 10.24 million in 2023 and RON 7.51 million in 2024. The 2023 figure excludes soybean support absent from the available decision.

Structure of support

Organic farming maintenance was the largest payment category, peaking at RON 5.29 million in 2023. SAPS/BISS exceeded RON 2.30 million annually until 2023, declining to RON 1.74 million in 2024.

Policy transition

The farm moved from SAPS to BISS and from greening to PD-04, combining income support with environmental and organic farming payments.

CONCLUSIONS

Organic farming maintenance dominated CAP support. Lower support in 2024 coincided with a reduced farm area. Economic impacts require further analysis.