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AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE: A CRITICAL REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

ALEXANDRA UNGUREANU[1], DENIS PAUL BACTER[1], RAMONA VASILICA BACTER[3]

[1]Department of Economics, University Stefan cel Mare of Suceava, University Street 13, 720229 Suceava, Romania

[2]Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Environmental Protection, University of Oradea, 26 Gen. Magheru St., 410087 Oradea, Romania

[3]Department of Animal Husbandry and Agritourism, Faculty of Environmental Protection, University of Oradea, 26 Gen. Magheru St., 410087 Oradea, Romania

Abstract: *Agricultural economic performance is shaped by more than production levels, market prices, or farm size. It also reflects how resources are managed, how economic decisions are made, and how farms respond to changing market conditions. This paper critically reviews the literature on agricultural management strategies and the structural challenges influencing economic performance. Particular attention is given to resource allocation, production costs, market access, investment decisions, and the unequal capacity of agricultural enterprises to adapt to economic pressures. The review also considers how farm fragmentation, limited financial resources, and weaknesses in value chain organization can constrain profitability, even when productivity improves. Across these dimensions, a recurring concern is the gap between higher agricultural output and stronger economic returns. The paper argues for a broader understanding of agricultural performance, one that considers not only what farms produce, but also how effectively they manage resources and retain the value generated through their activities.*

• Introduction

Production levels, market prices and farm size do not fully explain agricultural economic performance.

How resources are managed, how economic decisions are made and how farms respond to changing market conditions also matter.

• Material and method

Critical review of the literature on agricultural management strategies and the structural challenges influencing economic performance.

Dimensions examined

- Resource allocation
- Production costs
- Market access
- Investment decisions
- Capacity to adapt to economic pressures

• Results and discussions

Structural constraints

Farm fragmentation, limited financial resources and weaknesses in value chain organization can constrain profitability, even when productivity improves.

Unequal adaptive capacity

Agricultural enterprises differ in their capacity to adapt to economic pressures.

Output and economic returns

A recurring concern is the gap between higher agricultural output and stronger economic returns.

• Conclusions

A broader understanding of agricultural performance should consider not only what farms produce, but also how effectively they manage resources and retain the value generated through their activities.