

STUDY REGARDING THE PERSPECTIVES OF ARGES COUNTY AGRICULTURE THROUGH THE FARMERS' VISION

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Abstract

This work aims to present a study regarding the perspectives of Arges agriculture through the farmer's vision. This paper will disseminate only part of the information obtained by questionnaire. People who were interviewed are representatives of agricultural holdings with legal form and individual exploitations without legal form. The questionnaire aimed to identify the opinion of farmers according to legal form on the following issues: What kind of agriculture is considered necessary to be practiced in the county and the means for upgrading technology. A percentage of 66% considers that it is necessarily highly productive agriculture, of large farms that use fertilizers, herbicides, etc., and only 34% for the traditional organic farming. As a result, the survey revealed that the farmers who have farms with legal form consider that they can modernize their exploitation by mechanization (33%), using new varieties (28%) and using new crop technologies. The same opinions have the farmers from the individual agricultural sector, there were no significant differences between the farmers from the exploitation sector with legal form.

Key words: agricultural producers, questionnaire, Arges

Rural areas in Romania are a cardinal component of the evolution of the Romanian economy. Three rural resources need to give the true dimension of the restructuring of the agriculture and rural development in our country: the use of agricultural area (14.8 million ha), farm labor (3.5 million) and total area of the countryside (90% of the country) (Micu M.M., 2012).

In this perspective, Romania has to adopt agricultural policies to include elements of accelerating the process of compatibility, especially in the regulation of the property rights and guaranteeing it, but also to improve infrastructure and education in this specific segment (Alec I.N., 2002).

In specifying of the agricultural policy must start from the fact that agriculture is not only an economic sector producing goods and profits, it is also a way of life and rural areas is not only a place of production, but at the same times a social and cultural space with complex issues concerning the overall state of the nation.

Agriculture is an important component of Arges economy in rural areas constantly being introduced reform measures, including law enforcement in the field and of the current EU programs (Drăghici M. and co laboratories, 2010-

2011, Popescu M., Popescu, G., 2007 Tudor V., 2008).

One of the main agricultural areas of the country, Arges County is well known for its cereal crops, industrial crops and fruit. More than half of the county's agricultural area is arable land. The rest is filled with orchards, nurseries, vineyards, pastures and meadows. Agricultural area, totaling 341,033 ha, is operated as follows:

- 332,393 hectares in private farms (individual and associations);
- 8.640 hectares in the state sector.

Data currently available in the Arges County show that the situation is more delicate every year, the number of farmers, but also of animals is declining.

Not surprising that the level reached by land worked is alarming, one of the causes of increasing costs in agriculture.

Our data indicate that we are dealing with a decrease in average with 5% compared to 2002 figures from the previous census was held. The number of farms fell by 5.15%. In 2010 were reviewed 162,858 agricultural holdings in Arges, of which 161,798 without legal form. Note that individual farmers are unrelated and yet still work the land to live sometimes from day to day.

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Also, the use of agricultural area of the farms decreased by 5.5% over 2002, which means a high degree of division of property (in the meantime, some courts have split as a result of the inheritance). The data show that the number of animals in the county fell significantly by over 10% in some cases (Manole S., 2011).

In these conditions, this work makes a study on the prospects of Arges agriculture through the farmer's opinion considering the theory, the problem and the constraints. Without a strategy is missing the consistency in using the funds, resources are wasted, especially time, that it flows against agricultural producers who live in rural areas.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The usefulness of the questionnaires is given by different categories of provided information: the hierarchy of needs, preferences, attitudes, consumer habits and buying, consumer motivations and so on. Also regarding the utility, it refers to respondents who may be associated with specified categories of information. Thus, information on market phenomena or processes is circumscribed to the specific of the community's reference. For example, people can gather information from the various segments formed by gender, age, education, occupation, geographical area, home environment, income, household structure and size. These data can be obtained more easily through the questionnaire (Colibaba D., 2001).

The information collected through the questionnaires are both quantitative and qualitative, that can be detailed by certain criteria, thus to allow a deep knowledge of the market issues that cannot be addressed based on secondary sources. Arguments about the importance of questionnaire as a tool for gathering information about the market of goods consumer and services enable the formulation of the conclusion that development, testing and application of questionnaires requires complex and varied knowledge from the researchers.

In practice, for various reasons, some communities may not be recorded with the total units that compose them, whether it would have required heavy expenditures or research results that efficiency is not ensured. All these reasons and others not specified, requires more frequent organization of statistical surveys such as partial records.

Planning and execution stages of the questionnaire can be considered as following:

1. Setting goals questionnaire, which is established for research purposes. Are specified operational information to be obtained and questions are formulated based on their questionnaire.

2. Defining the population, in which is set the community studied, the unit of observation and the survey unit.

3. Establish the data collection method, which sets the spatial coordinates, temporal and modal of the research.

4. Develop of a questionnaire is based on a previously set of objectives, questions contained in it that can be divided into several categories. Questionnaire must be clear, not vague, not to influence the response, does not use the same scale row (avoid the effect of inertia) (Savoiu G., 2011).

The questionnaire was applied during September-November 2011 in Arges County in a number of 53 persons. The questionnaire applied was well structured, being divided into chapters, relevant, containing over 50 questions. This work will disseminate only part of the information obtained by questionnaire. People who were interviewed are representatives of agricultural holdings and legal form of individual farms without legal form.

The questionnaire aimed to identify was the opinion of farmers according to legal form on the following:

- What type of agriculture is necessary to be practiced in the County;
- Ways of upgrading technology.

It also took into account the following, obtained through the questionnaire:

- Age of respondents;
- Level of education of respondents;
- Form of relief where farms are located;
- Access development measures.

Making the study is due also to the research, statistical data analysis and interpretation. This, together with extracts from the theoretical literature, enabled the assessment of certain issues raised throughout the work.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In terms of age, we see that of all farmers interviewed in the segment with individual holdings, prevails the farmers aged 51-60 years.

For farmers with legal holdings segment as that prevails farmers aged 41-50 years is not recorded a difference of age than in young farmers appreciate that young people continue to consider an important branch of agriculture economics in Arges County (Micu M.M., 2011).

We believe that the questionnaire was conducted on farmers of all ages in order to observe their opinion uniformly (*figure 1*).

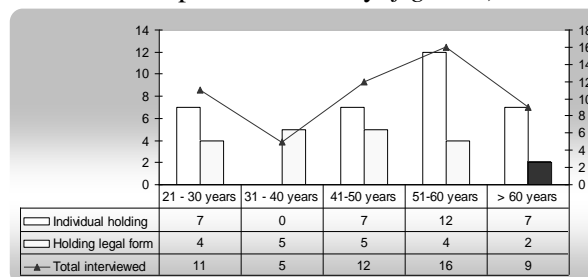


Figure 1 Age of respondents

Regarding the level of education of respondents shows that the segment of the total and individual farmers with farms, farmers predominate with high school education.

For farmers with legal holdings segment that half of them attended university (figure 2).

We believe that the high level of education of respondents, the questionnaire could be easily understood and completed by them.

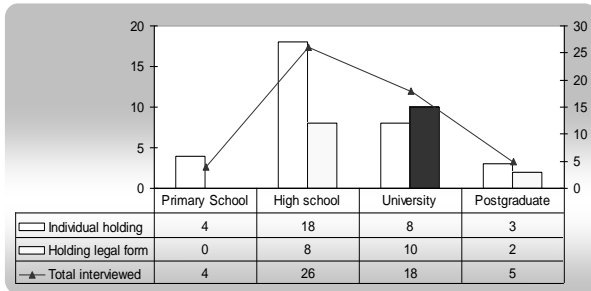


Figure 2 Level of education of the respondents

If we talk about where the holdings are located those interviewed we noticed that most of them are coming from the hill and less mountainous areas.

Farmers who own individual holdings, we see that 82% come from the hills, plains 12% and 6% in the mountainous county of Arges. For farmers with legal holdings segment, 80% come from the plains and only 20% of the hilly district of Arges (figure 3).

We tried applying the questionnaire in all three forms of relief from Arges County, namely plains, hills and mountains.

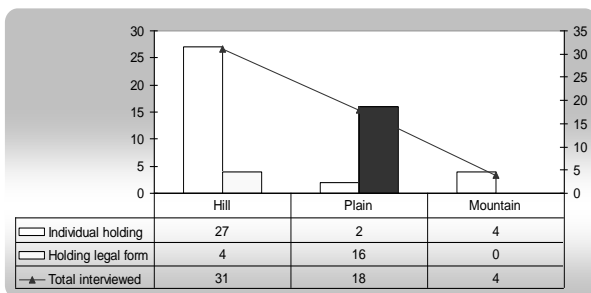


Figure 3 Form of relief where farms are located

When asked: What type of agriculture as needing to be practiced in the county?, With the choice of response “Intensive” or “Extensive”, 66% believe that a high agricultural productivity of large farms that use chemical fertilizers, herbicides, etc., and only 34% for the traditional organic (figure 4).

Among farmers who own individual holdings are not unanimous, the difference being only 4% for those looking for organic farming. Farmers who have farms with legal form still want to practice intensive agriculture as percentage of 95%.

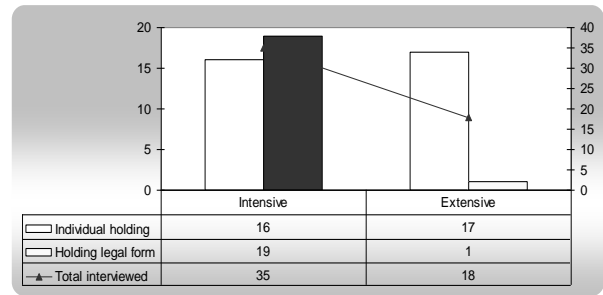


Figure 4 What type of agriculture is needed to be practiced in the county?

Following interviews on ways to modernize their holdings have revealed that all respondents agree with the modernization of farms.

As a result of the survey revealed that farmers who have farms with legal form can be considered as holding modernize primarily by mechanization (33%), using new varieties (28%) and using new technologies. The same opinions are individual farmers in the agricultural sector, there were no significant differences for farmers in the farm sector with legal form (figure 5).

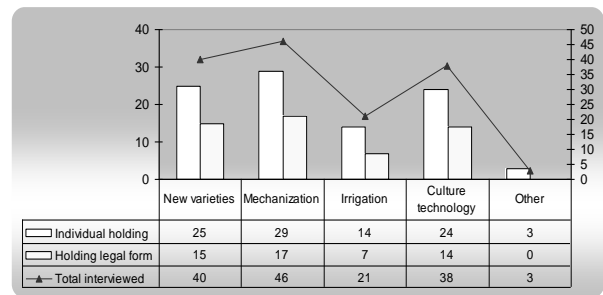


Figure 5 Ways to modernize

The question: Have you received development measures in the last 5 years?, With the choice of response “Yes” or “No”, it appeared that 51% of farmers have not benefited from development measures in the past 5 years, while 49% have accessed such measures.

Among farmers who own individual holdings percentage of respondents who have accessed development measures is 48%, and among farmers who have farms with a legal form are registering an equal ratio (figure 6).

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis made regarding the farmers in Arges county, both the individual and legal form through the questionnaire, allowed to draw the following conclusions:

- A 66% considered that a high agricultural productivity of large farms that use fertilizers, herbicides, etc., and only 34% for the traditional organic farming.

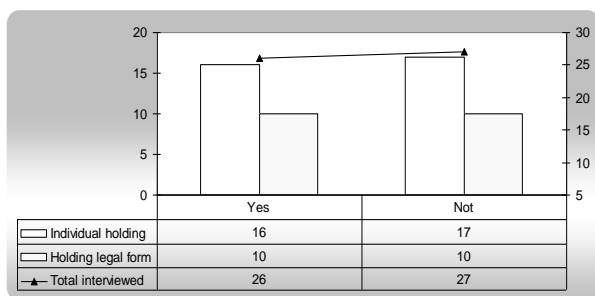


Figure 6 farmers who have benefited from development measures

- Among the farmers who own individual holdings are not unanimous, the difference being only 4% for those looking for organic farming.
- Farmers who own holdings legal form still want to practice intensive agriculture as percentage of 95%
- Following the interview on ways to modernize their holdings have revealed that all respondents agree with the modernization of farms.
- As a result of the survey revealed that farmers who have farms with legal form can be considered as holding modernize primarily by mechanization (33%), using new varieties (28%) and using new crop technologies . The same opinions are individual farmers in the agricultural sector, there were no significant differences for farmers from the farms to legal form.
- A percentage of 51% of farmers have not benefited from development measures in the last five years, while 49% have accessed such measures.
- Among the farmers who own individual holdings percentage of respondents who have accessed development measures is 48%, and among farmers who have farms with a legal form to register a ratio of equality.

- Following interviews on whether they want to input a form of association, showed that 87% of those who were questioned and agree to reunite in a form of association.

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