

SLOW FOOD CONCEPT APPLIED IN THE ROMANIAN ECOREGIONS

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Abstract. *The Slow Food concept was promoted in Europe as a resistance food styling which combats fast food claims to preserve the cultural cuisine and the associated food plants and seeds, domestic animals, and farming within an ecoregion. The objective of this study research is to design a management system for implementation of the Slow Food movement in ecoregions of Romania, where local culinary traditions and foods are legendary existing.*

Keywords: Slow Food, ecoregions, management system implementation

INTRODUCTION

The Slow Food movement was founded by Carlo Petrini in Italy as a resistance movement to combat fast food and claims to preserve the original cuisine and the associated food plants and seeds, domestic animals, and farming within an ecoregion(1,6). Local food (also regional food or food patriotism) or the local food movement is a "collaborative effort to build more locally based, self-reliant food economies - one in which sustainable food production, processing, distribution and consumption is integrated to enhance the economic, environmental and social health of a particular place"(2). Additionally, preserving or renewing regional food ways, including unique localized production practices, indigenous knowledge, agricultural landscapes, and local/regional landraces of crops or livestock that may be rare or otherwise endangered(4). Slow Food works to defend biodiversity in food supply, spread taste education and connect producers of excellent foods with co-producers through events and initiatives (3,5).

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The strategically objectives of the management system for implementation of Slow Food movement in ecoregions of Romania are the following:

- preserving and supporting traditional ways of growing, producing and preparing food;
- developed of eco-gastronomy in ecoregions of Romania .
- emphasis on natural, organic methods of producing agro-alimentary foods;
- find markets for traditional food producers.;
- reinforce uniformly rigid hygiene standards for all Romanian food producers ;
- encouraged intensive agribusiness practices which choice is quality over quantity ;

- ⇒ encouraged using traditional feeding methods in agrobusiness;
- ⇒ promote the endangered organic foods;
- ⇒ encouraged strict protocols for natural and organic methods of feeding and raising the animals in order to produce the highest-quality products;
- ⇒ spreading the knowledge about intelligent use of the environment in Romania.

The Management Framework activities will focus on:

- Planning ;
- Prioritizing actions and implementation responsibilities ;
- Timely decision making, particularly for implementing projects and activities;
- Tracking performance, monitoring, and assuring that activities are consistent with relevant science and new information;
- Communicating in society the goals, tasks, and outcomes of the *Year Strategy* and *Romanian Implementation Program in Ecoregions* .

Guidelines principles and certification systems have relevance to ecoregion management under the following aspects:

- ⇒ **Forest Management:**
- ⇒ **Sustainable Agriculture:** Such as those developed for organic farming schemes which meet national standards under the auspices of the **International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM, 1996)**.
- ⇒ **Sustainable use of marine resources**
- ⇒ **Fair Trade:** Such as the guidelines for coffee, tea etc.
- ⇒ **Social Rights:** A range of guidelines and charters relating to the treatment of people, including those of the **International Labour Organisation, UN Human Rights**.
- ⇒ **Tourism:** Guidelines for ecotourism developments. There are currently many national and regional examples of ecotourism guidelines.

The measure for the effectiveness of management implementation in ecoregions are the followings:

- ⇒ to identifying national ecoregions;
- ⇒ promote ecoregion conservation and funding the management program implementation;
- ⇒ facilitate advocacy to improve management;
- ⇒ monitor performance in achieving management system targets.

The objective of management implementation process evaluation is to assess the standards of the management system and the processes and functions used in Romanian ecoregions. The process evaluation has the following steps:

- establish standards for the conduct of management that can be used as a basis for assessing performance.
- establish outcome indicators which measure the real impacts of management action by assessing the extent to which management objectives are being achieved.
- establish monitoring and evaluation program for outcome indicators achievements.

CONCLUSIONS

The Slow Food Management system implementation in the Romanian ecoregions will reinforce the private business in agro-industry, food industry and agro-tourism. The Romanian gastronomy will be recognized all over the world and generate progress and performance in the Romanian tourism activities. The Management system proposed includes the specific activities involved by the International Slow Food movement associate with the particular issue involved by the Romanian ecoregions specifics.

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