

EVOLUTION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPLOITATION IN THE NORTH-WEST REGION OF ROMANIA

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Abstract. *The subject of this study is the situation of the agricultural exploitations in macro region I- North-West, including Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș, Satu-Mare and Sălaj counties. The data used are extracted from the General Agricultural Census performed in 2002 and 2010 and from the Agricultural Structural Survey performed in 2007. The considered items were the number of exploitations (total, with livestock etc.), their structure, the average area and the agricultural area used. The analysis of these data emphasized the evolution of the agricultural exploitations in this region over a period of several years.*

Keywords: agricultural exploitations, agricultural area.

INTRODUCTION

The subject of this study is the situation of the agricultural exploitations in macro region I- North-West analyzing data extracted from the General Agricultural Census performed in 2002 and 2010 and from the Agricultural Structural Survey performed in 2007, the year when Romania entered European Union. Our purpose was to emphasize the evolution of agricultural exploitations in this area before and after Romania entered European Union.

Body of paper

After 1989, passing from a centralized economy to a decentralized one, one of the measures taken in order to solve the problems from communist period, was elaborating and applying The Law 18/1991 (The Land Law), that provides that all lands area should be given back to their owners. The effect of applying of this law was the division of the land in million areas, owned by approximately 4 millions land owners (Oțiman, 2000). In 2002 a census was realised, for the first time after passing to a decentralized economy (in 1989), but also after the second world war (General Agricultural Census from 1948). Once Romania entered European Union in 2007 we adopted and performed for the first time Agricultural Structural Survey, its basis being the methodology performed by all countries in European Union about surveying and analysing the land areas and the agricultural machines and animals number. Agricultural Census statistics from 2010 is the latest situation of agricultural holdings.

Strating from this data we present, the evolution of agricultural exploitation, their number, the average area, their legal status, in the North West region, including 6 departments. We refer here to 2002, 2007 and 2010, years when it was performed the two agricultural surveye.

În 1948, România was divided in regions. Actual North-West region was divided in 1948 in: Cluj, Crișana and Maramureș. In 1948 the number of

agricultural households was 589.130 (DARPR, 1961). As seen in, in 2002, in north-west region the total number of agricultural households was 624.501, bigger than in 1948, the same in 2010 (529.095 from 589.130).

Table 1

Evolution of the total number of agricultural exploitation

Region/ County	Total			
	2002	2007	2010	% (2010/2002)
North-West	624.501	533.767	529.095	84,72
Bihor	139.302	122.492	114.739	82,36
Bistrița Năsăud	80.561	72.127	77.376	96,04
Cluj	130.086	106.276	96.986	74,56
Maramureș	111.457	95.294	106.742	95,77
Satu Mare	86.635	72.260	69.478	80,19
Sălaj	76.460	65.318	63.318	82,81

Source: General Agricultural Census performed in 2002 and from the Agricultural Structural Survey performed in 2007, 2010

As seen in table no 1, the number of agricultural exploitations diminished in 2007 to 2010 to 95.406 (15,28%) exploitations that was determined by a general decreasing in all departments and regions of agricultural exploitations in number and area. From 2002 to 2010, we can see a general decreasing of agricultural exploitation total area and livestock.

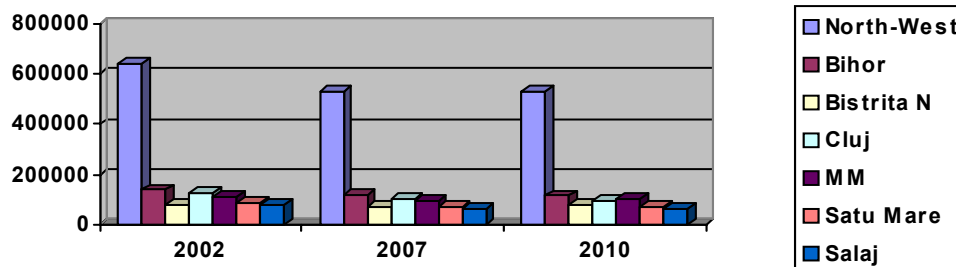


Fig. 1. The evolution of the total number of agricultural exploitations in North-West region

Table 2

Evolution of agricultural exploitation (used area)

Region/County	Used area in agricultural exploitations		
	2002	2007	(2007/2002)%
North-West	159.096	130.198	81,84
Bihor	37.419	27.194	72,67
Bistrița Năsăud	18.184	16.248	89,35
Cluj	36.136	28.284	78,27
Maramureș	27.127	27.189	10,22
Satu Mare	20.630	17.484	84,75
Sălaj	19.600	13.799	70,40

Source: General Agricultural Census performed in 2002 and from the Agricultural Structural Survey performed in 2007

Table 3

Evolution of agricultural exploitation in number (livestock)

Region/County	Only agricultural exploitations with livestock		
	2002	2007	%(2007/2002)
North-West	159,096	130,198	81.84
Bihor	37,419	27,194	72.67
Bistrița Năsăud	18,184	16,248	89.35
Cluj	36,136	28,284	78.27
Maramureș	27,127	27,189	100.22
Satu Mare	20,630	17,484	84.75
Sălaj	19,600	13,799	70.40

Source: General Agricultural Census performed in 2002 and from the Agricultural Structural Survey performed in 2007

The biggest fall in agricultural exploitation referring to their livestock can be observed in 2007 a total number of 4,757, compared to 2002 a total number of 15,657. The same falling can be observed to agricultural area used.

These facts are due to the lack of subsidies for animal's breeders, farmers, their poor organizations and the lack of associations of processing and collecting the goods. As a conclusion the production costs are not covered, a fact that determined the decreasing of number of animal farms.

Farms in the case of using only the agricultural area is indicated to reduce their number the idea that aims to increase economic dimension by lease, concession, sale and purchase the establishment of associations.

Table 4

Agricultural exploitations and their legal status

Types of exploitations	Period	Nord-Vest	Bihor	Bistrița	Cluj	MM	Satu Mare	Sălaj
Agricultural households	2002	620.745	138.343	80.022	129.305	111.135	86.044	75.896
	2007	531.122	121.728	71.778	105.785	95.051	71.890	64.890
	2010	523.778	113.200	76.619	95.552	106.104	68.795	63.108
Agricultural associations	2002	211	63	19	48	12	61	8
	2007	143	51	9	29	20	30	4
	2010	203	28	1	65	33	71	5
State or private Company	2002	771	205	93	142	66	183	82
	2007	471	213	34	46	31	102	45
	2010	2.102	721	321	406	168	320	166
Public Administrations Units	2002	859	202	126	164	79	125	163
	2007	596	139	93	103	72	87	102
	2010	504	113	75	114	95	68	57
Cooperatist units	2002	16	7	3	3	1	2	-
	2007	5	2	-	2	1	-	-
	2010	7	1	2	-	1	2	1
Other types	2002	1.899	482	298	424	164	220	311
	2007	1.430	359	213	311	119	151	277
	2010	2.501	676	358	449	359	222	437
Total	2002	624.501	139.302	80.561	130.086	111.457	86.635	76.460
	2007	533.767	122.492	72.127	106.276	95.294	72.260	65.318
	2010	529.095	114.739	77.376	96.986	106.742	69.478	63.774

Source: General Agricultural Census performed in 2002 and from the Agricultural Structural Survey performed in 2007, 2010

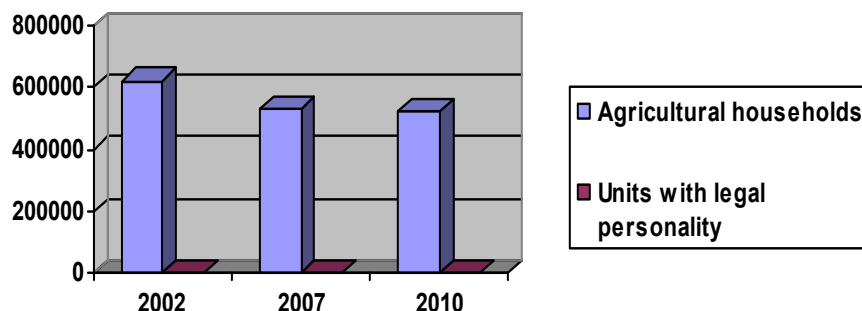


Fig. 2. Evolution exploitations by legal status in the North – West

The most exploitations are individual farms or agricultural households. In 2002, there are 99,4% individual agricultural households-farms, and 0,6% companies, in 2007, there are 99,5% individual agricultural farms and 0,5% companies, in 2010, there are 98,99% individual agricultural farms and 1,01% companies. Even if the fall in total number of agricultural exploitations in 2010 can be easily observed, the report between the individual agricultural households and agricultural companies is appreciatively the same in 2007 as in 2002. From 2002 to 2007 a lot of cooperates associations disappeared.

Table 5

The evolution of the average area of agricultural exploitations

Region/country	Total of agricultural exploitations (number)			The average area of a single agricultural exploitation			The average area used		
	2002	2007	2010	2002	2007	2010	2002	2007	2010
Nord-Vest	624.501	533.767	529.095	3,07	3,68	3,41	3,15	3,71	3,47
Bihor	139.302	122.492	114.739	3,57	3,75	4,03	3,64	3,77	4,06
Bistrița -N	805.561	72.127	77.376	3,54	3,79	3,62	3,63	3,81	3,73
Cluj	130.086	106.276	96.986	3,12	3,32	3,52	3,27	3,41	3,58
MM	111.457	95.294	106.742	2,05	3,25	2,40	2,08	3,26	2,43
Satu Mare	86.635	72.260	69.478	3,34	4,62	3,99	3,41	4,63	4,07
Sălaj	76.460	65.318	63.774	2,78	3,57	2,96	2,83	3,60	2,99

Source: General Agricultural Census performed in 2002 and from the Agricultural Structural Survey performed in 2007, 2010

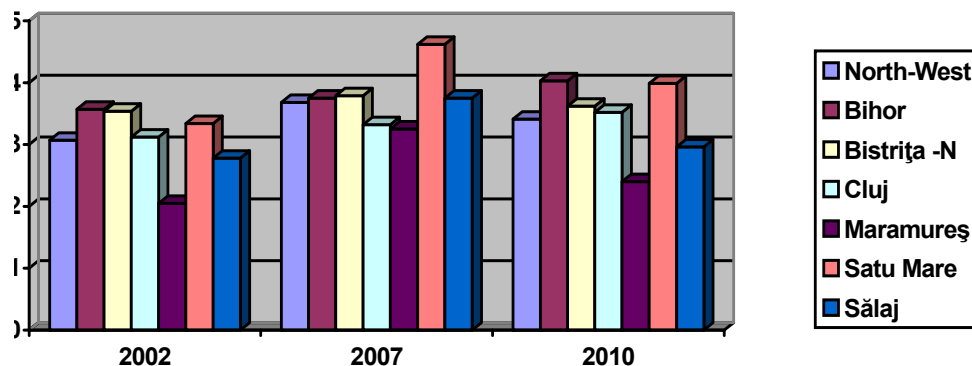


Fig. 3. The evolution of average area of a single agricultural exploitation

The average area increased in 2007 from 2002, to the agricultural exploitation level as well as to the used area. The biggest growth in area could and can be observed in Sălaj, Bistrița Năsăud, Satu Mare and Maramureș departments. The average area decreased in 2010 from 2007, to the agricultural exploitation level as well as to the used area. In E.U., in 2010 the average area was 11,7 ha (Agricultura – statistical Yearbook, 2010) bigger than in North-West (3,41 ha), and even bigger than in Romania (3,5 ha) (Agricultura – statistical Yearbook, 2010).

In Romania 75% of agricultural holdings do not meet minimum performance standards in Europe. Compared to Romania, which has 25% of agricultural holdings according with standards of performance, Slovenia has 78,9%, Cehia has 62%, Lituania has 50%, and Polonia 43%.

CONCLUSIONS

As we can see from the data, in 2002-2010 there was a significant fall of numbers of agricultural exploitations in North-Eastern Region, the most significant being in Cluj and Maramureș County.

In Cluj and Bihor county there were significant falls in number of animal farms.

Individual agricultural exploitations, individual agricultural households represent 95% of the total in 2002 as in 2007 and 2010.

The average area of a single agricultural exploitation increased in 2007, but a decrease in 2010.

The conclusions are that there is a tendency in increasing productivity of agricultural exploitations but it's too slow. If the area grew from 3,07 ha in 2002 to 3,68 ha in 2007, meaning a growth of 0,61ha during 5 years, in order to obtain an area of 11,7 ha, like in European Union we need 70 years time.

The only solution for Romanian agricultural holdings in the North - West is merging to become efficient and thus decrease the number of land holdings. In the five years (2002-2010), failed to reduce holdings than 14,28%.

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