

THE TIMELINESS OF SOCIAL AGRONOMY

Cucerzan M.

*University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Horticulture,
3-5 Mănăștur Str., Cluj-Napoca, 400372, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; cvmihai@yahoo.com*

Abstract. The "social agronomy" was supported initially by a number of intellectuals, who treated the most significant economic, social, cultural and political situation of the Romanian village, agriculture and peasant in the first half of the twentieth century. Proposals are reviewed and critically and constructively relate to all aspects of human social life as interdependent parts of the whole society. Although the findings and objectives of its belonging to the interwar period, many of which are available today. Also, we consider that has not completed its historic mission, many of the ideas and proposals are still present and future.

Keywords: Social Agronomy, village, rural development, peasant, rural space.

INTRODUCTION

A very current issue of the contemporary world, with many theoretical and practical meanings is that of "social economy". With regard to agriculture and rural Romanian, this problem becomes a specific connotation in the "social agronomy". Before going into some details of the problem, Professor Mihai Șerban reproduce characterization of this concept: "Social Agronomy is based on the concept that agriculture is not an aim itself but it is a a mean to raise the material and cultural situation of the population in general and particularly of the agricultural population." (Șerban, 1939). Introducing the meaning of this phrase ("social agronomy"), dictionaries tell us "Agronomy" comes from the Greek words "agros" - "field" and "nomos"- "law". The same dictionaries defines agronomy as "complex science that relies on agricultural production" (Romanian Encyclopedic Dictionary, 1962, p. 6), "complex of sciences that includes all theoretical and practical knowledge about agricultural production "(Explanatory Dictionary of the Romanian Language, 1966 p.21). The sense of "social", used by M. Serban in the phrase "social agronomy" refers to a particular aspect of this concept as it is the phrase "social issue" that "meant the first concern to organize society, and tends to economic and moral resolve the difficulties rose by the existence of social classes". Applied to agronomy, this notion wants to emphasize human needs and social consequences of agriculture and the way they meet specific necessities of the particular social category directly concerned - the peasantry. Thus, "social agronomy" might be defined as the discipline that relying on agriculture, is dealing with issues and social consequences.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

To achieve our objectives, the method used was the analysis of the documents done in the past and who treated this subject. Document analysis is a fundamental source of social research in social sciences and, thus, in sociology. To not skid down the slope interpretations and simplistic explanations sociology should not confine only topical subjects, but it should not ignore past experiences practice.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of "social agronomy", again expressed unequivocally, is "relief" peasant life and work. So, as a scientific discipline, "social agronomy" is firmly focused on reality and basic needs of the Romanian village and peasant.

In the relatively short time of observing and describing the real situation of the Romanian rural areas, have started research on the causes of this situation and have been formulated proposals, projects and programs for its improvement. Among those, a certain issue was the "social agronomy". It was supported initially the external model, by a number of intellectuals, experts in agronomy, economy or sociology, concerned about the theoretical and practical aspects of agriculture. Authors interested in this approach like P. Rosiade, Crum Mihăilescu, Constantinescu-Ismail, Șerban Mihai or Stanciu Stoian treated the most significant economic, social, cultural and political situation of the Romanian village, agriculture and peasant in the first half of the twentieth century. Their proposals relate to all aspects of human social life as interdependent parts of the whole society. Although the findings and objectives of its belonging to the interwar period, many of which are available today.

For P. Rosiade, "the mission and purpose of social agronomy" was resumed to determine the process of spontaneous creative research on agriculture. Agronomist, "the tool of social agronomy" should not be "purely technical specialist", but "apostle" which enshrines the renewal of agriculture particularly in view of "the people, their soul consciousness and their willingness", able to form the new spirit in the world of the village. On the basis of this social movements must be the direct and objective knowledge of regional and local realities, so it needs to be able to predict market trends and production. Crum Mihăilescu extended social agronomy topics at regional or local global level, with the same goals, increasing the quality and quantity of agricultural production. In addition to economic factors, the author insists, on man and his conscience ("social reasons"). This author is adept of associations of owners, agronomist assuming the role of expert consultant. Achieving these objectives, Mihăilescu requires a qualified framework and pedagogy courses organized by social agronomy. For Nicolae Constantinescu, social agronomy needs to increase the role of science and consciousness for Romanian peasant, the main attention being focused on rational and emotional human being. In his conception, social agronomy is a science - with all the qualities of a scientific theory and action, its object – the human being; specific work methods adapted to social progress - agriculture (through education will and human consciousness) and the results - now projected and estimated - the material and spiritual growth of its beneficiaries. Stanciu Stoian refers to the village as a whole understanding the individual farmer is a part - which requires attention both to material activities and from those spiritual. The target of social agronomy is "raising the social life of the village as a whole." Like educator and sociologist, Stanciu Stoian proposes a comprehensive concept whose terms are peasant, agronomy and specialist. And for him, "the whole soul must be turned to this purpose of the social agronomy: civilization and focus on formative man." Mihai Serban and his social agronomy design was based on the scientific knowledge of the village, peasant and agriculture of our country and the needs arising from the symbiosis of these factors. The knowledge and understanding of these realities are based on investigating the village as a whole (which implies a sociological view). The common denominator of all these is the

human being. The fundamental theoretical work of Professor Mihai Serban is entitled *Introduction to the study of social agronomy* (1939). In this paper its author exposes his research findings regarding the Romanian rural problems. "Social Agronomy, says M. Serban, is based on the concept that agriculture is not an end in itself but a means to raise the material and cultural life of the general population and especially of the agricultural population." The aim of this science is "facilitating farmers work". Social agronomy is more a cultural than a technical discipline, questioning its problems and resolves it through education and training more than in laboratories and field experience. This is because "social progress is a cultural problem." M. Serban shows that "the social agronomy pursues higher standards of living of the villager's integration as a determining factor in the public life of the country". Supreme commands are supreme national interest, the industrialization and the increase of productivity. Satisfying these requirements will be able to get the "lift" of the peasantry and therefore the increase of the nation.

To summarize, we retain the following: as essential aspects, the present and future of social agronomy: Rationalization of human activities in agriculture through science and conscience; Performing technical solution for agriculture; Adapting farming to economic realities dynamic conditions; Increasing the role of specialist in agricultural work in contemporary Romanian village life; The human being - in the center of economic and social processes of agriculture; Extend social agronomy topics at local and global area; The aim of Social Agronomy is the quantitative and qualitative raise of agricultural production; Major attention given to human consciousness; Borrowing foreign forms of agriculture (including livestock) is balanced by that local initiative and state; Organization of teaching courses of social agronomy (Mihăilescu, 1933); The Romanian dimension of social agronomy is based on increasing the role of science and conscience in the development of agriculture, village and peasant, the main attention focusing on rational and emotional man; Achievement of these goals should be the mission of specialists with technical and socio-agronomic skills; Development of cooperatives; In the foreground of the social agronomy must stand the social aspect, the farmer more than agriculture. - Understanding of the village as a whole, the purpose being "to raise the social life of the village as a whole"; Key terms of social agronomy must be peasant, science and professional agronomist (Stanciu, 1936); The importance of the agrarian problem in Romania can be understood only if known across economic, social and cultural life of the Romanian village so that it is necessary to consider, in addition to the present reality and its antecedents and consequences and future development directions; Role of the educational process, lifting the European standards. An essential element of this performance is the education system; A major goal of social agronomy social is raising the level is the farmer's knowledge so that it cannot be separated by other professions.

Through all these theoretical and practical meanings the "social agronomy" had a special account in the interwar period. Also, consider that has not completed its historic mission, many of the ideas and proposals are still present and future.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we have the right to estimate that today, under the transition period in which we live, the role of social agronomy experience is to offer effective solutions for the organization of modern farming village. However, it is an important chapter, irreplaceable, of the Romanian society efforts towards progress and prosperity of its

agricultural and rural system, and for all Romanian global social system. Among the major issues of social agronomy could be described as the need to modernize agriculture and village through technical solutions, the development of effective structures of production and sale of production through various associations, increasing the role of science and conscience in agriculture (and rural activities in general), developing the role of the specialist and the school (education) in this process. In the center of all these processes must be the human being. All these problems are within the competence and obligation of sociology. Therefore we believe that this issue is revival of interest in a necessity of socio-economic and human progress. For these reasons we consider that such research should include both a theoretical approach (including the history of the problem) and opening a practice to the realities, needs and possibilities of contemporary Romanian agriculture and rural areas.

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