

ABSTRACT

Key words: *agriculture, European funds, investments, strategies*

The doctoral thesis is entitled “**Studies concerning development possibilities of agricultural farming in the North-Eastern Region by attracting European funds**” and it is structured in two parts:

1. **Bibliographic study, analysis of natural and social conditions in the studied area, material and research methodology;**
2. **Results obtained and their interpretation.**

The first part includes the Ist, the IInd and the IIIrd chapters and the second part the chapters from the IVst to the VIIth.

The doctoral thesis finishes with the VIIIth chapter entitled “Conclusions and recommendations”.

The first chapter, which is entitled “**Studies and researches concerning the development possibilities of agricultural farming by attracting European funds**” refers to the following two main problems:

- ✓ the researches related to development possibilities of agricultural farming by attracting European funds;
- ✓ the European agricultural funds.

There are described the existing disparities between the Romanian agriculture and the developed countries from the European Union.

There are also presented the necessary measures for developing and improving the activities of Romanian agricultural farming, insisting on instruments and methods to be utilized, such as management and marketing, which have the highest importance.

Thereby it is necessary to elaborate appropriate management structures correlated to new directions in view to response to the needs and the requirements imposed by the Common Agriculture Policy.

The reform process presents common elements in all countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The macroeconomic stabilization and the fundament approach of financial programming represent a common base for the programmes created by I.M.F.

The success of an agricultural farm consists in developing the farmer's skills to administrate the farm in the right way, to prevent its involvement in the chain of negative effects that could affect it and at the same time to ensure a strategic planning for the farm's future.

The analysis of the current situation of Romanian agriculture regarding the presentation of dominant types of enterprises represents a modality to formulate the conclusion on its existing state and the anticipation of the future.

The smooth operation of the agricultural and animal breeding units requires an important volume of financial resources for new or complementary investments, for production development process and product manufacturing, for social and cultural needs and other activities.

Sources of finance can be classified into: internal sources and external sources. The internal sources are raised from *the contributions of owners and/or associated members and the company's profit*. Sources of external finance include *the borrow finance and non-refundable funding*.

The phases to follow for a non-refundable funding are presented in detail. I insisted on the management investment projects.

The second part of the Ist chapter refers to European funds attracted by the agricultural sector. I presented the pre-adhesion structural funds through SAPARD Programme and post-adhesion structural funds through FEADR Programme.

The second chapter refers to **"Natural environment and socio-economic characteristics in the North-Eastern Region"**.

The first part of the second chapter presents the analysis of the natural environment in the North-Eastern Region, referring to the following aspects:

- ✓ **the administrative location of the North-Eastern Region;**
- ✓ **the plain** – characterised by concentrated villages, having economic frunctions, cultivated surface areas with cereals and fruitgrowing plantations and vineyards;
- ✓ **the hills and hillocks** – characterised by dispersed villages, located on both sides of the roads, having gardens, orchards and vineyards near the group of houses;
- ✓ **the mountains** – characterised by dispersed villages, with isolated houses or small groups of houses. Some of them are not connected to public utilities (*natural gas, drinking water, electric power, landline phone service etc.*);
- ✓ **the relief** in the North-Eastern Development Region has a dominant impact on climate in the six districts of the atudied region;

- ✓ **the climate** has a main role in the agriculture, because the location, the plant species or hybrid plants are chosen based on the vegetation period;
- ✓ **the air temperature and the amount of atmospheric precipitations;**
- ✓ **situation of natural disasters;**
- ✓ **the hydrography;**
- ✓ **the types of soil:** - **in the Carpathian mountains:** *ando-soils, acid brown soils and ando-soils, spodosols, brown soils;* **in the pre-Carpathian region:** *hydro alluvial loamy soils, grey soils and chernozem soils;*
- ✓ **the soil cover, including:**
 - **hydro alluvial loamy soils zone;**
 - **molisoils zone;**
 - **grey soils;**
 - **rendzina and pseudorendzina;**
 - **intrazonal soils – alluvial soils, swamp, gley soils, halomorphic soils;**
 - **erodisoils.**
- ✓ **exploitable resources of the subsoil.**

The last part of the IInd chapter provides an overview of the social aspects of development in the North-Eastern Region, namely:

- population, number of municipal towns, towns, communes and villages in the North-Eastern Development Region, by districts;
- employed population in industry, services and agriculture;
- population structure by gender and urban/rural residence;
- unemployment;
- regional economy;
- SWOT analysis of the North-Eastern Region.

The IIIrd Chapter refers to “**Material and research methodology**” and is structured in three parts.

The first part provides synthetic information about the main aspects related to marketing information and the collecting information sources. The most significant elements have taken into consideration: *the scientific documentation, the bibliographical documentation and the direct documentation.*

The second part entitled “**Marketing researches: content and typology**” describes the research aim and objectives.

The research aim refers to the diagnostic analysis of results obtained by the agricultural farms and the impact of European funds in the context of Romania's adhesion to the European Union.

It is noticed that the development possibilities of agricultural farms have increased after Romania's adhesion to the European Union, as a result of the advantage to access European funds, whence a big number of non-refundable funds.

The researches performed in this context started by the financial-economic analysis of the agriculture in the North-Eastern Development Region, in view to proceed to the adopting measures leading **firstly** to the increase of the agricultural production above and **secondly** to its efficiency by attracting European funds.

The last part of the third chapter refers to the “**Material and Research method**”.

The research area within the frame of the doctoral thesis is wide and very actual, aiming at the impact of European Union pre-adhesion and post-adhesion funds for agricultural development in the North-Eastern Region and the implementation of development strategies of agricultural farms in the Romanian North-Eastern Region by attracting European funds through SAPARD and FEADR programme.

As a reference point in the scientific research, I started by analyzing both the natural and socio-economic conditions and the situation of agricultural development in the North-Eastern Region during 2002-2010 period.

The research methodology was based on the investigation of official documents, the technical-economic analysis, the SWOT analysis and case studies.

The results of the performed researches may become models for farmers in developing their agricultural activity and improving the technologies both in vegetal production and in animal breeding.

The research methodology followed several stages, namely:

- ✓ *the bibliographic study from the Romanian and foreign specialty literature;*
- ✓ *the collecting of specific information from the studied area;*
- ✓ *the ordering, interpretation and presentation of results in a synthetic form (tables, charts and diagrams);*
- ✓ *the results analysis and interpretation;*
- ✓ *the formulating of conclusions and recommendations.*
- ✓ The following research methods were performed:
- ✓ *the monography;*
- ✓ *the analysis and interpretation of statistical data;*

- ✓ *the economic analysis;*
- ✓ *the diagnostic analysis;*
- ✓ *the socio-economic survey;*
- ✓ *three case studies performed at S.C: COZA-RUX S.R.L. Suceava; S.C. AICBAC S.A. Bacău and S.C. REMINA S.R.L. Podu-Iloaiei.*

The second part is entitled **”Results obtained and their interpretation”** and covers the chapters IV-VII.

The IVth chapter IV presents the **”Analysis of agriculture development in North-Eastern Region in 2002-2010 period”**.

The IVth Chapter is structured in the following parts: *the analysis of vegetable production and the analysis of zootechnic production.*

The analysis of vegetable production aimed the following elements:

- ✓ *the farming equipment, tractors and main agriculture machinery, by districts (tractors, plows, mechanical seeders and auto propelled harvesters);*
- ✓ *the structure of agricultural land by categories of use and districts (arable land, pastures, hayfields and natural meadows, vineyards, orchards and seed-beds);*
- ✓ *the evolution of cultivated surfaces, the total production and average yield on major crops and by districts (wheat and rye, potatoes, sugar beet, sunflower and vegetables).*

The analysis of zootechnic production comprises the following elements:

- ✓ *the evolution of number of animals on species and by districts (cattle, swine, sheep and goats);*
- ✓ *the evolution of animal total production by categories and districts (meat, milk, eggs and honey);*
- ✓ *the structure of agricultural production by branches and districts (vegetable sector, animal breeding and services in agriculture).*

The Vth chapter refers to the **”Impact of European funds during the pre-adhesion and post-adhesion periods in the North-Eastern Region”**.

This chapter presents the impact of SAPARD programme in the North-Eastern Region: *number of conformed projects (quantitative and value); measure 3.1 – Investments in agricultural farms, by districts and types of farms (quantitative and value); measure 3.4 – Investments in beekeeping, pisciculture, snails breeding and other objectives, by districts.*

The second part of the Vth chapter refers to the analysis of the impact of FEADR Programme in the North-Eastern Region.

There are highlighted the ways to access major measures in this programme, such as:

- the measure 112 – “Setting up young farmers”;
- the measure 121 - “Modernising agricultural farming”.

One of the studied farms belongs to young farmer Moraru Andrei Mihăiță, who hold a vegetable farm since 2010. Another case study was performed on the agricultural farm SC MORANDI COM SRL in Stefan cel Mare commune, which benefited by a non-refundable funding through SAPARD programme.

The **VIth chapter** presents **the impact of European funds on agricultural farming in the North-Eastern Region.**

The case studies referred to the analysis of a vegetables farm new created in Perieni village, Probota commune in Iași district and the S.C. MORANDI COM. S.R.L., which holds three farms for poultry (meat chickens and layer hens) in Lipovăț and Ștefan cel Mare communes from Vaslui district.

The analysis considered the main economic indicators and the investments effects on the profitability of revenue, economic and consumable resources.

The **VIIst chapter** presents the **development strategies of agricultural farming in the North-Eastern Region by attracting European agricultural funds for rural development FEADR.**

At first it is provided information on the mechanism of accessing European funds through FEADR programme and after that there are analysed the development strategies of agricultural farming in the North-Eastern Region based on project aiming vegetable farms and agricultural zootechnic farms.

The last chapter presents the **“Conclusions and recommendations”**, providing a synthesis of research results and recommendations that can be applied within the agricultural farms in the North-Eastern Region and in other Romanian Development Regions.

The doctoral thesis ends with the bibliography that includes a list of references from Romania and abroad.