

## SHORT FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE LOCAL AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM OF THE NORTH-EAST DEVELOPMENT REGION

Lucian TANASĂ<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract.** *Due to their implications within the regional agri-food system, short food supply chains are playing an increasingly significant role in local supply networks, offering a viable and sustainable alternative to conventional agri-food chains. These chains are considered innovative and have numerous economic, social, environmental, health, and cultural implications for local communities and producers in the North-East Region. This article briefly presents these implications through a review of the relevant literature. The contribution of short food supply chains to the resilience of food systems has become increasingly evident over the past decade. In our view, the philosophy of local agro-economic development needs to evolve: conventional and alternative agriculture must coexist harmoniously without negatively impacting each other. The chains that interconnect producers and final consumers should be integrated into a socio-economic ecosystem based on sustainable and durable principles, and the local agri-food market must adapt to these new demands.*

**Keywords:** short food supply chains, local food systems, Nord-East Development Region

DOI [10.56082/annalsarsciagr.2024.2.5](https://doi.org/10.56082/annalsarsciagr.2024.2.5)

### 1. Introduction

Local agri-food systems play a crucial role in the architecture of food security, not only by ensuring consistent access to fresh and high-quality products but also by supporting the local economy and strengthening community cohesion. These systems have the significant advantage of reducing reliance on global/conventional supply chains, thereby decreasing vulnerability to external disruptions such as economic, pandemic, or climate crises. At the same time, local agri-food systems support local producers and promote cultural and gastronomic diversity (local identity), offering a conducive environment for sustainable entrepreneurial innovations and the development of vibrant rural economies that are harmoniously integrated into broader regional development strategies.

In a societal context characterized by continuous transformation and adaptation to community needs, where healthy food, the resilience of actors throughout the agri-food ecosystem, environmental protection, and sustainability are becoming

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<sup>1</sup>Senior Researcher PhD, "Gheorghe Zane" Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch, 2, Codrescu street, Iași, 700481, Iași County, Romania; (email: [lucian.tanasa@gmail.com](mailto:lucian.tanasa@gmail.com)).