

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY IN ROMANIA

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Abstract. *The material aims to analyze and discuss several facts regarding one of the most debated and controversial global issues of humanity: food security. It was the first and has been the most important problem and its solution was partial throughout history, different in space and time inside the same community.*

The article investigates the demographic evolution in relation to that of food space at global and regional level. The second part of the material analyzes and comments on the capacity of Romanian agriculture to provide food security for the population in the context of technical and technological progress, of the structural transformations of Romanian agriculture and, not lastly, of market globalization.

In conclusion the author formulates some optimistic conclusions motivated by the present and future evolution of the analyzed phenomena.

Key words: agricultural production, food space, demography, productivity, food consumption

Introduction

It is unanimously acknowledged today that throughout their history, humans have exerted continuous pressure on the food space in various forms. Even before the development of agriculture as a main source of food, as hunters or gatherers, humans were dependent on a particular area from which they procured food. By comparing it across the millennia, this area has now become practically insignificant. The specialized literature [1] even quotes a scale regarding the gradual reduction in time of the food space (Cailleux), namely a quota of land per person.

The author estimates a surface of 5000 ha for the hunting civilization, 1000 ha for the pastoral one, 10 ha for the primitive agriculture (by mattock), 2 ha when the wood and iron plow was invented, 10 times less when the tractor was invented and only 0.16 ha in the current conditions of modern and developed agriculture (FAO estimations).

Given an agriculture with state-of-the-art technologies, this area can also be halved (0.08 ha/person). This occurs in the current conditions when the distribution of arable land resource is approximately 0.28 ha/person, ranging in space from 0.10 to 1.2 ha over.

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