

## LAND RECLAMATION IN MOLDAVIA. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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**Abstract:** *At the end of World War II, Romania's land reclamation area - irrigation, drainage and soil erosion control works - was among the smallest relative to the actual needs of the country. This was despite the fact that landslides, floods, and especially droughts caused large, sometimes catastrophic damage. The yield losses caused by drought, floods, soil erosion triggered famine and human habitat destruction in all regions. During 1950-1989, there were successively developed extensive land reclamation programs reducing the backwardness of the country in this field. This paper analyzes the operation of the land reclamation during the transition to a market economy (after 1990), in the historic province of Moldavia, where, at the end of 1989, over 332 thousand ha were equipped for irrigation, 239.3 thousand ha were equipped against excessive moisture, and 798.2 thousand ha were equipped by soil erosion control works. We have also analyzed the state of the irrigation facilities, in particular. The actually irrigated areas in recent years; represents a little more than 12% of the existing potential in 1989. This paper also examines the causes that led to the disastrous state of the land reclamation, especially as far as the land equipped for irrigation in the province of Moldavia is concerned.*

**Keywords:** land reclamation; Moldavia; operation, rehabilitation

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