

## THE MAIN FEATURES OF ROMANIA'S AGRICULTURE IN THE PERIOD 2007-2012

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**Abstract.** Romania has a high agricultural potential but it is not enough utilized. Agricultural production increased but not enough, being still huge differences compared to the EU yields and production. The number of 3,859,043 farms is the largest in the EU (32%) and 3.57 ha/farm in average do not allow the application of modern technologies. The low technical endowment in the subsistence and semisubsistence farms is characterized by Euro 540/farm average fixed assets, 5.10 % irrigated land of the available surface, the low amount of fertilizers and huge charge of land per tractor, 54.1 ha. About 30 % of population is employed in agriculture. Rural population is characterized by aging, low training level and income, young generation is moving to cities looking for better paid jobs, the lack of diversified activities does not provide jobs and more revenues. However, important improvements have been noticed regarding agricultural production value, mainly due to the vegetal sector which has been rapidly developed. The contribution of agriculture to GDP increased by 19 % in the period 2007-2012, but its share in Romania's GDP declined to 4.88%.

**Key words:** agriculture, features, Romania

### 1. Introduction

Agriculture has a very important role in the economy: it provides food for population and raw materials major industries, it supplies fodder for animal husbandry, employment opportunities and income for the people living in the rural areas, it encourage the development of living standard in the rural space, it gives its contribution to GDP, and has a good play in international trade with agro-food products contributing to a better distribution of food and raw materials at world level, it brings important foreign currency to reduce the unfavorable balance of payments, and also it assures food security. (Stringer, 2001, Meijerink and Roza, 2007).

But the economists are focused on how agriculture could give more contribution to overall development and modernization (Johnston and Mellor (1961).

The traditional approach regarding the role of agriculture is based on the following aspects: to provide raw materials for agro-processing industries, to provide labor for industry sector in the urban areas, to produce food for covering

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