

SOYBEAN MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA IN THE PERIOD 2007-2017

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Abstract. *The paper aimed to analyze the trends and changes in soybean market in Romania in the interval 2007-2017 based on the statistical data for the cultivated area, yield, production, export, import and trade balance. The results emphasized that in 2017, Romania cultivated 165 thousand ha with soybean, produced 2,390 soybeans per ha in average and obtained 393 thousand tons beans. In 2017 versus 2007, the cropped area was by 23.9% higher, yield was by 134% higher and production by 188.7% higher. Both export and import have quantitatively increased, but imports are higher than exports. For this reason the trade balance was mainly a negative one during the studied period, except the years 2010-2012. However, in 2017, the negative value of the trade balance was - Euro 9,431.3 thousands, by about 50% smaller than in 2007, which is a positive aspect. Romania has to continue to extend the cultivated area with soybean and increase production to cover better the domestic market and stimulate exports.*

Keywords: soybean, cultivated area, yield, production, trade, Romania

1. Introduction

Soybean (*Glycine max*, L.) is considered the "golden plant of mankind" and "the plant of the future" because has an economic importance being an oleaginous plant largely cultivated by many farmers in the world and occupying the top position in the world oilseeds production (BASF, 2018) [1].

It has the capacity to make a symbiotic relationship with the bacteria fixing nitrogen into the soil and in this way it contributes to the improvement of soil fertility leaving about 80-120 kg nitrogen per ha. For this reason it is considered a valuable precursory crop for most of the agricultural plants, being included in crop rotation. Taking into account that it is a lack of fertilizers which are imported at high prices, the extend of the cultivated area with soybean could have a positive impact in reducing production cost with fertilization (Bîlteanu and Bîrnaure, 1989) [2].

Soybean has a lot of uses for humans, animals and industry.

It is a magnificent plant using as human food because a large range of food products are obtained from soybean due to its chemical content rich in protein, such as: vegetal milk, tofu cheese, coffee, chocolate, sweets, cakes, biscuits,

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