

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VRANCEA VILLAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN UNION

BURGHELEA LIVIU¹

Abstract

Rural areas had represented for Romania cradle of civilization and prosperity, the convergence place for social, cultural and economic activities with complex implications on the Romanian reality. Tifesti commune, located in the Northeast of the Vrancea County will depend in the near future on the European funds for the development of agricultural activities, non-agricultural, services, the tourism potential developing of the area by promoting activities in winery.

Key words: rural area, social convergence, European funds, Vrancea County

INTRODUCTION

Romania must adopt agricultural and rural development policies consistent and long term to transform the Romanian rural area into a modern economic and social system, flexible to social and economic times changing that we are.

To create a adhesion solid base to the EU, through SAPARD program have been undertaken investments in rural areas designed to ensure its social and economic development through direct support to private farmers, businesses, associations of producers in the agriculture and local councils.

Paper refers to the analysis of Vrancea countryside, part of the SOUTH EAST region which includes other 5 counties: Brăila, Buzău, Constanța, Galați and Tulcea.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Vrancea County is situated between 45°23'and 46°11' north latitude and 26°23'and 27°32' east latitude. Located in the south, south-east of the country, the at the Eastern Carpathians curvature, Vrancea, ancient hearth of Romanian civilization, is a bridge between the three historical provinces – Moldova, Transylvania and Romanian Land. As settlement, is bordering to the north with Bacau County, east with Vaslui and Galati, south, south-east with Braila and Buzau counties, and to the west with Covasna.

Vrancea County with a total area of 4857 km² which represent 14% of the Romania Country, have 2 municipalities (Focsani and Adjud) and 3 cities (Odobesti, Marasesti and Panciu). Rural area consists of 68 communes amounting a total of 331 villages. County population is 391.641 inhabitants of whom 62.47% are in rural areas. Active population was 151.500 people. (NSI - Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2009).

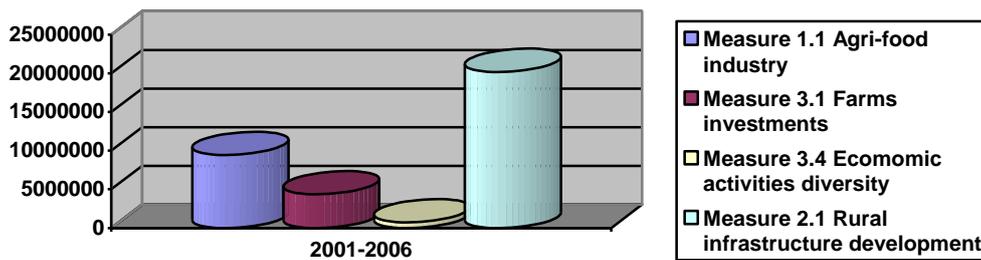
The structure land of Vrancea County is as follows:

- Total land area 485,703 ha of which 255,417 ha total agricultural and non-agricultural total 230,286 ha. (NSI - Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2009);
- Structure of agricultural land by main categories of use are as 147,956 ha arable, pasture and meadow 76,612 ha, vineyards and nurseries 27,141 ha, orchards and nurseries 3,708 ha (NSI - Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2009).

Agriculture is an important sector for Vrancea county's economy, both in the county and the region. As it knows, Vrancea county represent the wine heritage of the country, both in terms of surfaces and production. Quality wines Vrancea is recognized and appreciated both at home and abroad. Thus in Vrancea County, SAPARD were completed a number of 113 projects with a value of 34,679,632.56 Euro grant public.

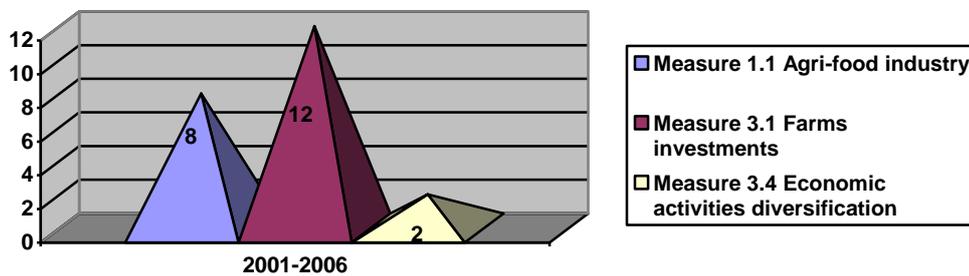
¹ PhD at University of Agronomical Science and Veterinary Medicine

Total values of investments projects

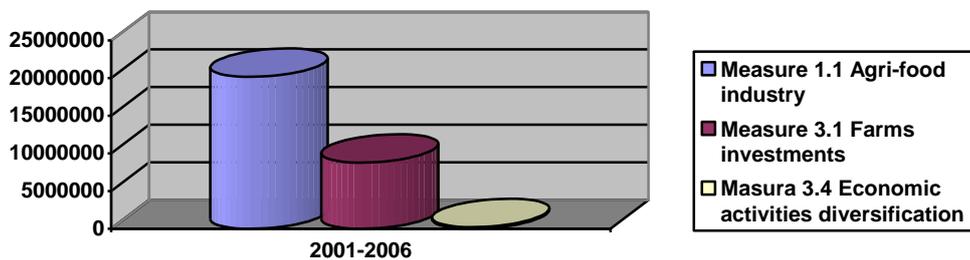


By Romanian SAPARD program were completed a total of 22 projects with a value of 29,097,840.65 lei grant public.

Projects total by investments type



Total values of investments projects



In this section it was considered appropriate to establish a coherent methodology for analyzing rural areas respectively defining terminology and the reference indicators that quantify the status, characteristics, economic and social potential. There were established indicators that can quantify potential rural development based on social, economic and cultural.

In the analyze there was included one of the most important rural development programs undertaken by the Romanian government in partnership with the European Community, named SAPARD (Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development), Romanian SAPARD program (approved by Ordinance 59/2006 on insurance the state budget co-financing grants public investment projects under SAPARD) presenting their impact on rural Vrancea.

To analyze the countryside of the county starting from the realities and reaching to development assumptions have been used three specific research methods:

1. Economic and social dynamic analysis, deductive and quantitative based on some synthetic indicators
2. Survey method that involves collecting information directly from the source, using research techniques "interview" and "questionnaire" established to a representative sample of subjects.
3. SWOT analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

To make diagnose of the real situation the countryside of Vrancea County there have been established the analysis of some representative communes of the county, corresponding to the three main forms of relief: mountain, hill and plain. In the second phase we analyzed Tifesti village, a hilly village of Vrancea County.

This commune is located at 22° North latitude and 46° East, in the contact area of Subcarpathians with Râmnic Plain at the foot of the N-E Magura Odobești, and SE of Hill Momâia, on the left bank of the Putna river and on the right bank of Șușița river, at 6 km. to Panciu. The Common borders are: North - common Straoani, Panciu city and Marasesti at the South - common Bolotesti and Garoafa at East – Garoafa village and West - Vidra. The first document of the village was 374 years ago.

The commune has subordinated 8 villages: Tifesti, Bătinești, Clipicești, Igești, Oleșești, Pătrășcani, Serbs, Vitănești.

By SAPARD program were contracted and complete:

- Measure 3.1 a number of 9 projects with a value of 508,143.73 Euro grant public of which 3 projects have as target investments in field crops farms, wine farms 5 projects and 1 project for setting up dairy farm;
- The Measure 3.4 was contracted and completed one project with a public assistance grant of 27,010.91 Euro which targeted an investment in heliculture;
- The Measure 2.1 was contracted and completed also one project with a grant public value of 533,855.90 Euro investments to modernize and expand the water supply network.

A twelve public project contract with a value of 698,353.5 Euro grant with the target to establishing a poultry farm could not be implemented due to lack of private companies.

By Romanian SAPARD was contracted and completed a project on Measure 3.1 with a public grant of 223,915.20 RON in a field crops farm.

We have analyzed the current situation of rural development in terms of access to community Tifesti public grants and SAPARD Romanian SAPARD menus in three major directions of development, namely:

- Social impact. These 11 projects have created a total of 29 new jobs. This led to the decrease of population migration from rural to urban and rural incomes increased;
- Economic impact. By implementing these projects have secured investment of approximately 1.1 million Euro, was provided material and technical basis for the operation of field crops and vineyards by providing tractors, combine harvesters and related range of agricultural machinery for milk cows and snails exploitation;
- The quality of life in terms of basic services to the population. Public investment for modernization and expansion of water supply network served a total of 5,222 people, so in 2010 was ensured a water consumption of 810 m³ per day.

For all these aspects mentioned above making global SWOT analysis carried out in the village Tifesti indicate the following:

Strengths - existence of county roads 205E and 205B paved and in good condition; availability and low cost of labor; the existence of strong associative forms in viticulture, the growing interest of the authorities to develop and promote the region in terms of viticulture and tourism, making requests for contracting authorities to European funds (for setting up an information center agro-tourism "Wine Road" establishment Welfare Centre for elderly, upgrading of local roads, building kindergarten in the village Bătinești normal program, rehabilitation home Bătinești cultural building a grape markets, rehabilitation of village stadium Clipicești) high agricultural potential for practicing viticulture (wine basin is shared Panciu), and vegetable (Bătinești village has a natural source of water-river Putna) , no pollution, local interest shown accessing European funds.

Weaknesses - difficult access to sources of funding, limited access to basic services for the population, poor training of residents.

Opportunities – accessing European funds to encourage agro tourism activities and especially through diversification of activities at the farm level horticultural farms, vineyards and grape processing centers, rural cultural and natural heritage, encouraging crafts and craft activities specific to the cooperage, the association between farmers would lead to projects financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development in agriculture, manufacturing and processing of agricultural, non-agricultural activities as well as in the service sector. Making an investment to collect wastewater in common and there is no sewerage network.

Risks - poor competitiveness of existing businesses and agricultural holdings, more pronounced aging population, low diversification of economic activities, agriculture being the main occupation of the inhabitants of the area, low skilled population.

CONCLUSIONS

Development Tifesti community in the next period depends on many factors among which the most important are:

- Successful of local authorities in structural funds to improve the quality of life in rural areas by promoting and developing sound business environment;
- Creation of processing micro-enterprises for agricultural products, services for people in common;
- Accessing European funds for the development of livestock farming activities in order judicious use of local labor conditions and feed;
- Development of tourism and agro-tourism which must be encouraged in order to create for the residents additional income.

The Municipal City Council has a number of measures to develop documentation for public investments in sustainable rural development.

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[4] *** Information's from SAPARD beneficiaries.