

**UNIVERSITY OF AGRONOMICAL SCIENCES AND
VETERINARY MEDICINE BUCHAREST**

**Doctoral School for Engineering and Management of Vegetable and Animal
Resources**

HABILITATION THESIS

(Abstract)

**Assessing the Effects of Common Agricultural Policy Reform on the Sustainable
Development of the Romanian Rural Areas**

**Habilitation area: Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural
Development**

Author: PhD. Ionel-Mugurel JITEA

**University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary
Medicine Cluj-Napoca**



Key words: bio-economical models; high nature value farming; agricultural policies.

Since antiquity, *agricultural policies* have been means of state intervention in economy in order to contribute to the acceleration of its development. Even in an era *dominated by technology and the phenomenon of globalization*, the study of the way in which agricultural policies are designed to achieve the goal of *sustainable development* is still very important. The relevance of supporting the agricultural sector and the development of rural areas is justified today by our society's increasing concern over the public goods that farmers provide (air, soil, water, biodiversity etc); by the consumers' concern to have access to safe and high-quality food produced in harmony with the environment and animal welfare; by the need to reduce pollution and, in particular, greenhouse gas emissions, in the context of the obvious climate changes caused by the increase in fossil fuel consumption etc.

The habilitation thesis is the outcome of several years of research which had as a *main objective* creating and then testing the best means for analysing the impact of agricultural policy over Romanian farm and agricultural sector. For a clear overview of the research types and directions that have been developed so far, *the first part* briefly mentions the main publications and research grants that were carried out after the PhD studies. Among the research directions that have been developed so far, the main ones are:

- **assess the agricultural policies' effects on farm and sectorial level.** These have been financed by a number of national and international grants, among which: PD 190/2010 *Evaluating the effects of the Commune Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms using a simulative approach at the Romanian farm level*, financed by the Romanian National Council for Scientific Research (project director); Project type TD/2005 named *Analysing the social, economic and technical effects of the Common Agricultural Policy at the crop farm level in North West Romanian region*, financed by the Romanian National Council for Scientific Research (project director).

- **sustainability assessment of the agricultural systems important for biodiversity conservation.** Part of a Horizon 2020 project named *High Nature Value Farming: Learning, Innovation and Knowledge* (HNV LINK 696391) (<http://www.hnvlink.eu/>; Project coordinator in Romania), there is created a 'network of practice, learning and innovation', by interconnecting 10 pilot areas from all over the European Union. These '*learning areas*' are used to practically evaluate *technical, commercial, social, institutional and political innovation examples*. HNV-Link stands for a 13 European prestigious institutions' consortium.

- **the study of the sustainability of the agro –forestry systems.** As part of an EraNet project research team- *Innovative and sustainable intensification of integrated food and non-food systems to develop climate-resilient agro-ecosystems in Europe and beyond (SustainFarm)*

(<http://www.sustainfarm.eu/en/>, Project coordinator in Romania PhD Mignon ȘANDOR), research are made to increase the agronomical, ecological and economical performances of the **integrated food and non-food production systems** (IFNS), by optimizing the productivity and better capitalization of the secondary products (wood, bio-mass etc).

All these research directions are high priority objectives for both the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Horizon 2020 research program. The research has been backed up by the constant focus on self-perfecting and increasing the international relations, by developing relevant scientific publications, involving into administrative, publishing, as well as mentoring work. An important role had the scholarships obtained in national/ international competitions. As it regards the international collaborations, between 2014 and 2015, there has been a membership in the *High Nature Value Farming* Focus Group established by the **European Commission** as part of the **European Innovation Partnership** (<http://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/FGHNV>). The mentoring and scientific guidance activities have been mainly developed after obtaining the permanent position at the University. Therefore, there are about 10 students per year under guidance for diploma and dissertation papers.

Through its content, this thesis offers first and foremost innovative methodological means for analysing the impact of various agricultural policy scenarios at the farm level. To this, the results obtained in the research of the economical sustainability of high natural value Romanian agriculture are added.

After finishing the doctoral studies, I had the opportunity to work as a team member of devoted and dedicated people from the Department of Economic Sciences and the Faculty of Horticulture from the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine from Cluj-Napoca. The ambition and perseverance they have shown continuously inspires me. Through the personal development plan presented at the end of the habilitation thesis, there are proposed several actions that can increase in the future the prestige of the university and the doctoral school. Finally I want to thank to all my collaborators from the national and international research projects, which helped me to improve the results. Last but not least, I want to thank my family, who often overlooked my absence from everyday activities.