



Food Security, Food Safety and Business Continuity on Agrifood Chain

Keywords: security, safety, continuity, agrifood chain

Abstract

The fields of competence, due to exceptional academic preparation and experience gained during scientific research with a practical and innovative nature, allow the candidate a multidisciplinary approach, adapted to the complexity of the areas addressed: security, safety and business continuity in the agrifood chain. After completing the PhD thesis in food engineering „Research on the use of permeate resulting from the application of membrane processes in the dairy industry”, in September 2006, author activities on research and education have been focused on security, safety and business continuity in the agrifood sector.

The habilitation thesis „Food Security, Food Safety and Business Continuity in Agrifood Chain” is correlated with the remarkable economic and technical training and scientific research results obtained in the two areas of specialization of the author. The scientific research conducted by the author has a multidisciplinary character, covering the fields of engineering and management in agrifood field.

The main topics addressed in career development, scientific research or academic prestige enhancement aimed at food security specific issues (Research on the availability, quality and accessibility of agrifood resources in Romania; Identify opportunities for local agrifood production development of local agri-food sector, new directions in food offer for the market, trends in food consumption and distribution, Evaluation of competitiveness of key national sectors in agrifood production; Niche market for agrifood producers in Romania, Developing technical indicators systems for food safety assessment in agrifood chain), Food safety in the agri-food chain (Monitoring ways and technical assessment of food safety, Implications of Community systems for regulation and monitoring of food security in the Romanian sector; Assessment of the economic impact of food safety incidents in Romanian agri-food sector), Ensuring business continuity in agrifood chain (Critical incidents of food safety in agrifood chain, The resilience of domestic agrifood chain to critical incidents regarding food safety Assessment and resilience growth of economic agents with agrifood profile in Romania to critical incidents, Strategies for ensuring business continuity in the agrifood chain).

The author participated in the conduct of 19 national and international projects, with technical topics specific to agrifood production or economic field, in which he was responsible with institutional project, project manager, economic responsible /director, member of the research and administrative teams.

The results on research showed that although Romania has a generous natural resources, there is fragmentation of agricultural production, a dependence of domestic food market on imports, and increase the share of foreign capital in key points of food production. Food crises in the international markets, combined with the fragility of the domestic sector could decisively affect national food security. Romanian producers are not prepared to endure critical incidents on the food chain A modern approach of business continuity could reduce economic



losses, which were consistent and significantly affected the Romanian producers. The opportunities of niche sectors (organic production, traditional food, genetically modified foods, reducing food waste) may represent viable solutions for the Romanian farmers.

Research in the food engineering domain drove to the creation of new lines of new research directions by developing synbiotic products food supplements with nutraceutical effects, materialized in accessing national funds for research, by training of economic agents, development contracts for applied research and technology transfer of research results to the food factory (2008 CEEX Research Grant 80/2006, "Biotechnologies for the manufacturers of nutraceutical products with effects in regulating metabolic functions - LIOSAN", 2006-2008 CEEX Research Grant 103/2006, "Functional foods: research on food safety and quality increase through design, production and launch of new synbiotic products, CALISIN"). Technical research in the field have enabled specific indicators to assess food security in livestock production (2006-2009 CNCSIS Grant 515/2006 "Research on establishing performance criteria for effective control and monitoring critical control points on groups of foodstuffs", 2007-2010 CNMP Research Grant 51-074/2007 "Evaluation of the production conditions of aquaculture farms in Romanian food safety system by addressing CIPRINAQUASIG HACCP principles", 2009-2011 PNII Grant 517/2009" Research on analytical systems to establish traceability of milk and milk products in order to align the Romanian products to European food safety requirements ") or the identification of market niches for domestic producers (PPCA Contract no. 115 / 02.07.2012" Improving nutritional meat products by using of plants rich in active principles", 2014-2015 Research Project POP 263/2014," Organic aquaculture practice in the Danube Prut fisheries area", 2014-2015 Research Project POP 246/2014 "Development of Intelligent fishery activities in the Lower Prut Area").

As in the engineering field, the author opens new directions of research in the field of applied economic research, too. Thus, during economical research it was proposed and conducted the first national study on the resilience of national agrifood chain to critical incidents of food safety, the research topic being new for Romania and according to the priorities of Agrifood Policy of the European Union.

The publishing activity in the covered areas has resulted in the last 10 years in the publication of 10 papers in peer-review journals from the indexed mainstream publications in Web of Science and over 40 papers published in international databases (RePEc, EconPapers, Ulrich, EEOL, CAB Abstract, Global Health, Chemical Abstract, etc.), 30 presentations at international scientific events (in the last 2 year), 2 books in international publishing houses and 21 books and chapters in books published at national publishing houses recognized by CNCSIS.

Further development of the career of the author has as foundation the ability to conduct the research activity at a high scientific level, the academic prestige acquired during the 20 years of academic career and the capacity to initiate and coordinate research and technological transfer projects through national and international collaborations. The possibility of coordinating groups of doctoral researchers can allow the creation of a national research center in the field of resilience of the local agrifood sector to critical incidents and transfer of scientific results obtained by the economic agents with agri-food profile, in order to increase the competitiveness of



Romanian agrifood products on the international market. Further development of the career of the author has as foundation the ability to conduct the research activity at a high scientific level, the academic prestige acquired during the 20 years of academic career and the capacity to initiate and coordinate research and technological transfer projects through national and international collaborations. The possibility of coordinating groups of doctoral researchers can allow the creation of a national research center in the field of resilience of the local agrifood sector to critical incidents and transfer of scientific results obtained by the economic agents with agrifood profile, in order to increase the competitiveness of Romanian agrifood products on the international market. The University “Dunărea de Jos of Galati” prepares graduates only Bachelor's degree and Master, and their training must to be completed by doctoral studies, according the Bologna Programme. The candidates for doctoral studies may come from the Faculty of Food Science and Engineering, Field Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development or Food Technology and Control Specialization, from the Faculty of Engineering and Agronomy Braila, or from the Cross Border Faculty of Humanities, Economic And Engineering. Getting habilitated and having the opportunity of doctoral research in this area, allows the access of our graduates to the completion of the field preparation and complete coverage of the Bologna cycle of university studies (bachelor, master, doctorate).