

TRENDS OF AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT IN ROMANIA

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Abstract

The article aims to analyze the main characteristics of agriculture in Romania by focusing on the dynamics and structure of agricultural management and that of labor resources, within the 2013-2016 periods. We analyzed the main indicators of management resources and labor in agriculture provided by statistical surveys based on: the categories of farm employees, the level of training of the farm management, the age of the head of the farm, the family structure of a farm without legal statute, the types of activities involving the head of the agricultural holding without legal personality and its members by age, the size classes of the agricultural area used. The study showcases the evolution of labor and management resources involved in the Romanian rural development and the prospects for their realization in the future.

Key words: farm management, farm employees, Romania.

INTRODUCTION

The quality of the labor resources in agriculture is the premise from which we begin to assess the development potential of any rural area (Stoian et al., 2015). In this context, a key role is played by the agricultural training of the labor force, especially of the head and upper management of the farm in question (Palicica et al., 2005).

Sustainable rural development supposes some key action paths for improving the quality of labor resources in agriculture: improving the prospects of young people from rural areas on the labor market through reintegration into the education system or by attending vocational training courses in order to provide them with the professional skills required by employers, increasing investments in the agricultural entrepreneurial field, applying an employment scheme relative to age (especially for older generations), improving the occupancy structure of women, foremost through reducing workloads centered strictly on subsistence farming (Burja et al., 2014).

The professional training certification of agricultural producers and the enabling to the highest potential of agricultural education across the board represents a goal of rural development in the medium and long term (Florion, 2011). The professional training of farm management staff requires complex,

technical, economic, financial and managerial training.

Agricultural high schools and specialized universities should provide offers of specialization programs correlated with the needs of the agricultural labor market. Adult vocational training also requires an adequate educational offer (Steriu et al., 2013).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We presented the management structure of agricultural farms and labor resources based on the statistical data provided by the Farm Structure Survey of 2013 and the Farm Structure Survey of 2016, by following the evolution of the subsequent statistical indicators: the categories of farm employees, the level of training of the farm management, the age of the head of the farm, the family structure of a farm without legal statute, the types of activities involving the head of the agricultural holding without legal personality and its members by age, the size classes of the agricultural area used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Categories of employees involved in farming

Regarding the permanent employees in agriculture, we notice a trend reversal. Between

2007-2013, the number of permanent workers has dropped significantly for small farms and grew for farms over 50 hectares (Iorga, 2017). In the period between 2013-2016, the number of permanent employees for large farms of over 50 hectares declined drastically (-3.927 employees). The number of temporary

employees is declining for all size classes. There are a more pronounced decrease for farms with a surface area of 2-5 ha (-107.691 temporary employees). The number of temporary employees in between 2013-2016 is of 374.343 workers (Table 1).

Table 1. Employees who worked on a farm, by categories and size class of the agricultural area used, between 2013-2016

Size class of the agricultural area used (hectares)	For the year 2013			For the year 2016		
	Category of employees			Category of employees		
	Farm management	Permanent employees	Temporary employees	Farm management	Permanent employees	Temporary employees
under 0.1	993	4,628	53,783	841	5,141	52,332
0.1-0.3	1,616	226	202,327	1,185	245	172,717
0.3-0.5	1,006	210	160,431	687	130	127,142
0.5-1	1,687	512	351,304	1,208	349	316,288
1-2	2,004	506	570,122	1,603	616	471,798
2-5	3,233	1,129	802,119	2,830	1,108	694,428
5-10	2,815	1,063	284,367	2,594	1,167	261,803
10-20	2,141	1,787	90,708	1,947	2,352	82,814
20-30	923	914	25,638	855	1,006	24,282
30-50	1,140	1,443	26,629	1,147	1,496	21,513
50-100	1,916	3,800	28,866	1,903	3,008	21,738
over 100	9,436	44,672	121,114	9,375	41,537	96,210
Total	28,910	60,890	2,717,408	26,175	58,155	2,343,065

Source: Farm Structure Survey 2013, Farm Structure Survey 2016 (FSS Statistics, accessed 2018)

The number of agricultural management declined for all the size classes of the agricultural area used, except for those with a size between 30 and 50 hectares (+7) (Table 1). The largest decrease is recorded among the farm management of small agricultural areas, of 0.5-1 ha (- 479), 2-5 ha (-403), but also of those with averages area, such as 5-10 ha (-221), 10-20 ha (-194) and of large areas of

20-30 ha (-68) or over 100 ha (-61). If between 2007-2013 there was an increase of the number of people involved in upper management of farms for all size classes, not the same can be said for the 2013-2016 time period, when a drastic decrease is recorded (-2,735). The number of agricultural management staff lowered in 2016 for both males and females (-2,394 males to -341 females) (Table 2).

Table 2. Categories of employees (males) that worked in agriculture between 2013-2016

Size class of the agricultural area used (hectares)	For the year 2013			For the year 2016		
	Category of employees (males)			Category of employees (males)		
	Farm management	Permanent employees	Temporary employees	Farm management	Permanent employees	Temporary employees
under 0.1	815	2,789	31,406	690	3,107	31,660
0.1-0.3	1,354	157	123,216	1,044	140	110,377
0.3-0.5	823	137	97,297	600	81	81,948
0.5-1	1,490	293	210,302	1,054	215	201,225
1-2	1,795	325	329,310	1,437	331	292,558
2-5	2,963	759	460,520	2,562	685	423,648
5-10	2,611	704	166,530	2,418	728	165,676
10-20	1,941	1,212	55,843	1,785	1,580	53,797
20-30	814	656	16,832	759	740	15,965
30-50	1,004	1,076	17,289	1,008	1,110	14,461
50-100	1,690	2,760	19,915	1,658	2,291	15,329
over 100	8,384	36,920	85,400	8,275	3,4353	63,085
Total	25,684	47,788	1,613,860	23,290	45,361	1,469,729

Source: Farm Structure Survey 2013, Farm Structure Survey 2016

During the period between 2007-2013 there was an increase of the number of people involved in farm upper management (Iorga, 2017). For the 2013-2016 period the decrease of the number of people involved in farm upper

management is drastic (-2,735). The number of farm managers declined in 2016 for both males and females, especially so for males with a total of -2,394 men to -341 females (Table 3).

Table 3. Categories of employees (females) that worked in agriculture between 2013-2016

Size class of the agricultural area used (hectares)	For the year 2013			For the year 2016		
	Category of employees (females)			Category of employees (females)		
	Farm management	Permanent employees	Temporary employees	Farm management	Permanent employees	Temporary employees
under 0.1	178	1,839	22,377	151	2,034	20,672
0.1-0.3	262	69	79,111	141	105	62,340
0.3-0.5	183	73	63,134	87	49	45,194
0.5-1	197	219	141,002	154	134	115,063
1-2	209	181	240,812	166	285	179,240
2-5	270	370	341,599	268	423	270,780
5-10	204	359	117,837	176	439	96,127
10-20	200	575	34,865	162	772	29,017
20-30	109	258	8,806	96	266	8,317
30-50	136	367	9,340	139	386	7,052
50-100	226	1,040	,	245	717	6,409
over 100	1,052	7,752	35,714	1,100	7,184	33,125
Total	3,226	13,102	1,103,548	2,885	12,794	873,336

Source: Farm Structure Survey 2013, Farm Structure Survey 2016

2. The level of training of a farm's upper management

The level of training of upper management staff in the agricultural field indicates, compared to 2013: a decline in people with full agricultural training (0.32%), of those with basic agricultural training (2.78%); a slight increase of those who have only practical training, directly gained on site in the farm (96.9%) (Table 4).

The level of professional training for upper management (males) with full and basic agricultural training indicates a decrease compared to 2013 (from 0.58% to 0.39% and from 4.00% to 3.49%, respectively) while noting an increase in the percentage of those who have direct practical training in the field (from 95.42% to 96.12%) (Table 5).

Table 4. Farm upper management on age groups and training levels

The training level for a farm's upper management	Age groups (years of age)						
	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and over	Total
Only practical farm experience	6,702	92,731	0	59,524	735,473	1,482,949	3,290,568
Basic agricultural training	392	2,831	2,981	27,239	21,172	27,244	94,486
Full agricultural training	15	633	0	2,024	3,370	3,792	10,871
Total	7,109	96,195	2,981	624,787	760,015	1,513,985	3,395,925

Source: Farm Structure Survey 2016

Table 5. Farm upper management (males) training level, on age groups

The training level for a farm's upper management	Age groups (years of age), males						
	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and over	Total
Only practical farm experience	4,453	69,919	302,597	466,003	508,833	811,729	2,163,534
Basic agricultural training	198	2,331	13,449	23,086	17,538	21,877	78,479
Full agricultural training	13	508	913	1,624	2,705	3,102	8,865
Total	4,664	72,758	316,959	490,713	529,076	836,708	2,250,878

Source: Farm Structure Survey 2016

3. Ages of the farm upper management

The age of upper management of a farm without legal statute is high. This is shown as 85.42% of the people with this level are over 45 years old. From the gender perspective, for all age groups involved, the majority are males,

with the highest percentage for the 35-39 and 40-44 age groups (80%). We note the gender segregation of the management of farms without legal statute is such that agricultural management remains a predominantly male occupation (Table 6).

Table 6. Farm structure, for farms without legal standing, on age groups and kinship (males)

Age groups	Upper management of a farm without legal standing	Spouse	Other family members*)	Other relatives	Unrelated people	Employees	Total
15 - 24	4,549	0	115	0	0	0	4,664
25 - 34	71,903	49	797	0	8	1	72,758
35 - 39	117,070	258	671	0	36	0	118,035
40 - 44	197,481	354	1,081	0	5	3	198,924
45 - 54	486,647	1,084	2,739	109	108	26	490,713
55 - 64	525,429	1,131	2,317	124	67	8	529,076
65 and over	834,175	1,017	1,395	82	28	11	836,708
Total	2,237,254	3,893	9,115	315	252	49	2,250,878

*Including: son/daughter, son-in-law/daughter-in-law, nephew/niece, mother/father, mother-in-law/father-in-law, brother/sister, brother-in-law/sister-in-law, grandfather/grandmother
Source: Farm Structure Survey 2016

Regarding the age group structure of farm management for farms with legal standing, we have identified the highest percentages in the

age group 45-54 years old (35.90%) and 55-64 years old (23.90%) (Figure 1).

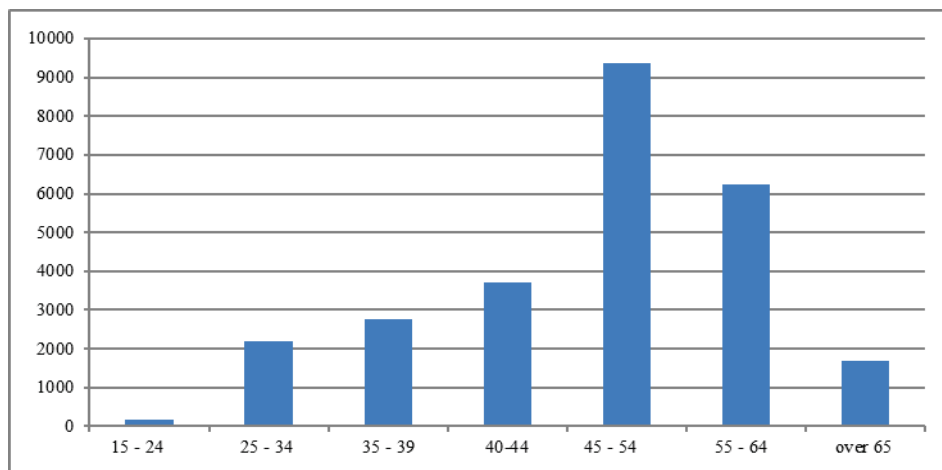


Figure 1. Structure of management for farms without legal standing, on age groups (Source: Farm Structure Survey, 2016)

4. The family structure of the farm without legal statute

In 2016, the number of people living on farms was 5,980,245, notably lower than in previous years (year 2013).

The largest number of agricultural management staff is found in farms with a size of 2-5 hectares (657,175 persons).

The number of management staff for farms of 10 hectares or more represents only 2.12% of

the total. In regard to the family structure, farms are made up of: the legal head of the farm without legal statute (56.79%), the spouse (22.81%), other family members (19.41%), other relatives (0.39%), unrelated people (0.61%).

Kinship and blood ties remain an important factor of relationships and cohabitation in the Romanian farm life (Table 7).

Table 7. Structure of kinship with the upper management of a farm without legal standing, on size classes of the agricultural area used

Size class of the agricultural area used (hectares)	Upper management of a farm without legal standing	Spouse	Other family members	Other relatives	Unrelated people	Total
under 0.1	430,919	164,972	97,251	2,280	3,494	698,916
0.1-0.3	554,218	190,187	131,317	2,969	4,929	883,620
0.3-0.5	295,078	102,323	74,450	1,824	3,075	476,750
0.5-1	566,307	206,138	173,088	4,112	5,215	954,860
1-2	628,781	254,342	231,783	4,201	5,873	1,124,980
2-5	657,175	303,992	307,452	5,522	7,611	1,281,752
5-10	191,606	100,064	103,778	1,664	2,868	399,980
10-20	48,265	28,477	29,122	512	1,274	107,650
20-30	10,137	6,159	5,462	162	432	22,352
30-50	6,384	3,871	3,362	101	470	14,188
50-100	4,138	2,281	2,150	38	356	8,963
over 100	2,917	1,262	1,296	72	687	6,234
Total	3,395,925	1,364,068	1,160,511	23,457	36,284	598,0245

Source: Farm Structure Survey 2016

5. Types of activities in which the upper management of a farm without legal standing and its members are involved

The structure of revenue-generating activities in which the upper management of a farm without legal standing is involved is the

following: the highest percentage is present for "Major revenue activities not related to farming" (66.32%), followed by "Subsidiary revenue activities not related to farming" (28.59%) (Table 8).

Table 8. Structure of other activities generating income for management of the farm without legal statute, year 2016

Other activities generating income	Management of the farm without legal statute	TOTAL
Major revenue activities directly related to farming	19,322	38,888
Major revenue activities not related to farming	674,450	134,4370
Subsidiary revenue activities directly related to farming	32,436	61,294
Subsidiary revenue activities not related to farming	290,730	540,700
Total	1,016,938	1,985,252

Source: Farm Structure Survey 2016

The share of those who are involved in agriculture as a prime activity is very low (with a mere 1.9%) as well as for "Subsidiary revenue activities directly related to farming".

CONCLUSIONS

Following the analysis, there was found that: The number of agricultural management has declined for all the size classes of the agricultural area used, except for those with a size between 30 and 50 hectares.

The age of upper management of a farm without legal statute is high. Thusly, 85.42% are over 45 years old.

The level of training of upper management within the agricultural field indicates, when compared to 2013, a decline in the number of

people with full agricultural training and of those with basic agricultural training.

In 2016, the number of people living on farms was 5,980,245. The largest number of management staff is found in farms with a size of 2-5 ha (657,175 persons).

Kinship remains an important factor of relationships and cohabitation in the Romanian farm life.

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