



MULTIFUNCTIONALITY IN FARMING

2023-PI-ALL-INNO-EDU-ENTERP-101140288

MILESTONE 3, Regional analysis of agricultural multifunctionality South East Region, Romania (NUTS code: RO22)

Work Package 2, Activity 2.1

Responsible Partners:

- ***Ovidius University***
- ***BIC srl***

Implemented in 2024



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FIRST PART, general assessment of Regional Agriculture



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RO22	South- East, Romania
INTRODUCTION:	
Geography and Climate:	<p>The south-eastern region of Romania is characterized by a varied terrain, fertile soils and a temperate-continental climate, significantly influencing agricultural practices in the area. Lands are varied and can be divided into several distinct types, each with specific agricultural characteristics and uses:</p> <p>Plains and hills: This type of terrain is predominant in the northern and northwestern part of the region, including Brăila, Galați, and Vrancea counties. Fertile soils, such as chernozems and brown forest soils, are ideal for cereal crops such as wheat and corn, but also for vegetables and technical plants.</p> <p>Meadow and alluvial soils: Located along the main rivers such as the Danube, the Prut and the Siret, these areas are rich in alluvial soils brought by alluvial deposits. They are excellent for intensive vegetable, fruit and viticulture crops.</p> <p>Mountainous and submontane areas: In the south and east of the region there are mountainous and submontane areas, such as in the counties of Vrancea and Covasna. Forest vegetation and pastures predominate here, and agriculture focuses more on animal husbandry and logging.</p> <p>Danube Delta: In the southeastern part of the region, the Danube Delta represents a special area with salinized soils and rich biodiversity. Fishing and animal husbandry are practiced here, and agriculture is mainly subsistence.</p> <p>In the south-eastern region of Romania, soils and climate play fundamental roles in shaping agricultural practices:</p> <p>Soils:</p> <p>Chernoziums: Predominant in the northern and northeastern part of the region. These soils are extremely fertile and favorable for cereal crops such as wheat and corn.</p> <p>Brown forest soils: Found in hilly and mountainous areas, they are suitable for growing fruit trees and technical plants.</p> <p>Alluvial soils: Located in the meadows of the Danube, Prut and Siret rivers, they are soils rich in nutrients and ideal for intensive crops of vegetables, viticulture and fruit growing.</p> <p>Climate:</p> <p>Temperate-continental: Characterized by hot summers and cold winters, with moderate rainfall throughout the year.</p> <p>Seasonal variations: Temperatures range from an average of 0°C in January to 23-24°C in July, providing a long growing period for seasonal crops.</p> <p>Drought risk: There is a risk of drought during summer periods, which requires careful water management and efficient use of available resources.</p>

RO22	South- East, Romania
Crop Diversity	<p>In the South-Eastern region of Romania, agriculture plays a vital role, and the cultivated crops cover a wide range of products from basic to specialty crops, matching the climate and soil conditions specific to the area.</p> <p>Staple crops include corn, wheat, and sunflowers. Maize is cultivated in significant quantities in Brăila, Galați and Tulcea counties, benefiting from fertile soils and favorable climatic conditions. Wheat is also an important crop in this region, being cultivated especially in Ialomița, Călărași and Constanța counties. The sunflower completes the list of basic crops, due to its moderate water and soil requirements, being widely found throughout the Dobrogea region.</p> <p>As far as cash crops are concerned, the grapevine occupies a central place in the agriculture of Constanța County, due to the favorable conditions for the production of quality wines. The hilly areas of Dobrogea are recognized for their red and white wines, obtained from local or international varieties.</p> <p>Specialty crops include watermelon, onions and greenhouse vegetables. Watermelon is widely cultivated in the bordering areas of Brăila County, due to the high temperatures and moderate humidity, which are ideal for the development of this fruit. Onions and greenhouse vegetables, such as tomatoes and cucumbers, are grown especially in greenhouses and solariums in Ialomița County, having a significant role in the local economy.</p> <p>These crops reflect the diversity and adaptability of agriculture in the Southeast region of Romania, contributing to the sustainability and prosperity of local agricultural communities.</p>
Livestock and Animal Husbandry	<p>Animal husbandry in the south-east of Romania, including the counties of Constanța, Tulcea, Brăila, Galați and Vrancea, is an essential activity due to favorable climatic conditions and rich natural resources. This region is notable for the diversity of animal breeds and breeding methods used. Among the main breeds of cattle are the Romanian Balțata, adapted for milk and meat production, and the Holstein, known for its high milk production. Sheep include breeds such as Merinos de Palas, prized for their fine wool, and Turcana, known for their meat and wool. The goats are represented by the Carpatina breeds, adapted for milk and meat production, and the Saanen, recognized for high milk production. In the pig sector, Mangalitsa is preferred for its fat-rich meat and Landrace for meat production.</p>

<p>RO22</p>	<p>South- East, Romania</p>																																																																												
	<p>Grafic : Evoluția efectivelor de animale existenta la 1 decembrie în perioada 2006 – 2023</p> <p>-mii capete-</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data extracted from the chart (Estimated values in thousands of heads)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>An</th> <th>Bovine</th> <th>Porcine</th> <th>Ovine și caprine</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2006</td><td>3000</td><td>6500</td><td>8500</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>2800</td><td>6200</td><td>9200</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>2600</td><td>6000</td><td>9500</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>2500</td><td>5800</td><td>10000</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>2000</td><td>5500</td><td>9500</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>2000</td><td>5400</td><td>9800</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>2000</td><td>5200</td><td>10000</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>2000</td><td>5100</td><td>10500</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>2000</td><td>5000</td><td>11000</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>2000</td><td>4900</td><td>11200</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>2000</td><td>4800</td><td>11500</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>2000</td><td>4500</td><td>11800</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>1900</td><td>4000</td><td>12000</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>1900</td><td>3800</td><td>12200</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>1800</td><td>3700</td><td>12000</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>1800</td><td>3500</td><td>11500</td></tr> <tr><td>2022</td><td>1800</td><td>3200</td><td>11800</td></tr> <tr><td>2023*)</td><td>1800</td><td>3000</td><td>11500</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Breeding methods vary from extensive breeding, prevalent in Tulcea county, where animals graze freely on natural pastures, to semi-intensive breeding, used in Constanța and Galați counties, which combines grazing with feed supplementation on farms. Intensive breeding is found in Brăila and Vrancea counties and is based on specialized farms where the animals are fed with concentrated feed and raised in modern shelters. For example, Constanța County is known for its cattle and sheep farms due to its favorable climate and extensive pastures, while Brăila County stands out for its intensive pig and poultry farms that use advanced technologies. This diversity and regional specialization highlights the importance of southeast Romania in national agriculture.</p>	An	Bovine	Porcine	Ovine și caprine	2006	3000	6500	8500	2007	2800	6200	9200	2008	2600	6000	9500	2009	2500	5800	10000	2010	2000	5500	9500	2011	2000	5400	9800	2012	2000	5200	10000	2013	2000	5100	10500	2014	2000	5000	11000	2015	2000	4900	11200	2016	2000	4800	11500	2017	2000	4500	11800	2018	1900	4000	12000	2019	1900	3800	12200	2020	1800	3700	12000	2021	1800	3500	11500	2022	1800	3200	11800	2023*)	1800	3000	11500
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<p>Agricultural Economy</p>	<p>Agriculture in southeastern Romania is an important economic pillar, providing a significant part of the regional GDP. Agricultural production includes crops such as cereals (wheat, corn), vegetables (tomatoes, onions, potatoes), fruits (plums, grapes) and viticulture in the more southern areas. Animal husbandry, including cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry, complements the agricultural diversity and contributes to the economic income of farmers in the area.</p> <p>Agriculture in the southeast of Romania provides a significant number of jobs, being one of the main employers in the region. Small and large farmers, as well as agricultural workers, contribute to the economic sustainability of rural communities. The food processing and agricultural distribution sectors also provide additional employment in nearby urban areas.</p>																																																																												

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Evoluția suprafețelor cultivate, a producțiilor și a randamentelor la hectar, la principalele culturi în anul 2023, comparativ cu anul 2022</p> <p style="text-align: right;">%</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cultură</th> <th>Randamentul (%)</th> <th>Producția (%)</th> <th>Suprafața (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Grâu</td> <td>3,7</td> <td>10,8</td> <td>6,9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Porumb boabe</td> <td>20,7</td> <td>8,8</td> <td>-9,7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leguminoase boabe</td> <td>3,3</td> <td>38,0</td> <td>33,6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rapiță</td> <td>6,4</td> <td>45,6</td> <td>36,7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Floarea soarelui</td> <td>-3,0</td> <td>-4,3</td> <td>-1,4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Soia boabe</td> <td>19,0</td> <td>24,1</td> <td>4,3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sfeclă de zahăr</td> <td>2,5</td> <td>43,5</td> <td>39,3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cartofi</td> <td>-10,6</td> <td>-12,1</td> <td>-1,6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tomate</td> <td>-7,6</td> <td>-6,9</td> <td>0,9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Varză albă</td> <td>-7,1</td> <td>-6,7</td> <td>0,3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ceapă uscată</td> <td>-2,9</td> <td>-3,8</td> <td>-0,7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pepeni</td> <td>-6,8</td> <td>0,4</td> <td>7,4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Furaje verzi din teren arabil</td> <td>-10,2</td> <td>-7,5</td> <td>3,0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Despite the positive contribution, agriculture in the south-east of Romania faces various challenges:</p> <p>Price Volatility: Fluctuations in agricultural commodity prices can affect farmers' incomes and economic stability.</p> <p>Access to finance: Farmers face difficulties in accessing credit and other financial resources needed for modernization and expansion.</p> <p>Poor infrastructure: Lack of adequate infrastructure can make it difficult to transport and access markets for agricultural products.</p> <p>Climate change: Climate change can affect yields and the predictability of agricultural production, requiring continuous adaptations in agricultural practices and technologies.</p> <p>In conclusion, agriculture in the south-eastern area of Romania is a vital sector for the economy and employment, but requires effective management of the mentioned challenges to increase competitiveness and long-term sustainability.</p>	Cultură	Randamentul (%)	Producția (%)	Suprafața (%)	Grâu	3,7	10,8	6,9	Porumb boabe	20,7	8,8	-9,7	Leguminoase boabe	3,3	38,0	33,6	Rapiță	6,4	45,6	36,7	Floarea soarelui	-3,0	-4,3	-1,4	Soia boabe	19,0	24,1	4,3	Sfeclă de zahăr	2,5	43,5	39,3	Cartofi	-10,6	-12,1	-1,6	Tomate	-7,6	-6,9	0,9	Varză albă	-7,1	-6,7	0,3	Ceapă uscată	-2,9	-3,8	-0,7	Pepeni	-6,8	0,4	7,4	Furaje verzi din teren arabil	-10,2	-7,5	3,0
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<p>Cultural and Social Aspects</p>	<p>In the south-eastern area of Romania, cultural traditions related to agriculture are deeply rooted in the life of local communities. These traditions not only reflect a deep connection with the land and nature, but also strengthen the social cohesion and cultural identity of the inhabitants.</p> <p>Agricultural holidays such as "Pig Slaughter", "Resurrection Day" and "Harvest Day" mark important moments in the annual cycle of agricultural activities. These festivals bring communities together to celebrate the bountiful harvest and bless the crops for a prosperous year ahead.</p>																																																								

RO22	South- East, Romania
	<p>During these celebrations, traditional rituals are carried out that have the role of protecting crops from calamities and ensuring the fertility of the land. For example, "Pentecost" is a holiday in which customs are practiced to protect crops from hail and other unfriendly natural phenomena.</p> <p>Folk art, such as icons depicting agricultural scenes or traditional pottery, is often used to mark and decorate houses and churches in communities. These art forms are not only expressions of local traditions, but also living stories of devotion to the land and respect for nature.</p> <p>The agricultural traditions of the south-eastern area of Romania are not only a rich cultural heritage, but also a way to strengthen social ties and preserve the cultural identity of local communities, in harmony with the natural cycles and natural resources of the region.</p>

References:

https://www.adrse.ro/Documente/Planificare/Studii/Studiu_EDER.pdf

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en>

<https://insse.ro/cms/ro>



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MILESTONE 3, Regional analysis of agricultural multifunctionality South East Region, Romania (NUTS code: RO22)

SECOND PART – Deepening, broadening, regrounding: South East Romania case study



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Organic Agriculture	
RO22	South-East, Romania
Technical information (state of art of the activity)	
<p>Quantification: quantitative data of the activity (es. how many agritourism in the region, how much organic production etc etc)</p>	<p>In Romania, the area cultivated in the ecological system approaches the threshold of 7% of the entire agricultural area of the country. The number of producers has reached approximately 12,600, of which over 200 are processors. In Romania, 13,260 operators are registered in organic agriculture, of which 12,598 are agricultural producers who cultivate a little over 644,519 hectares of land, out of the more than 8 million hectares of agricultural land at national level, according to the latest data made available by the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>There were 221,743 ha (34%) under conversion, while the ecologically certified area reached 422,776 hectares (66%). Also, during the analyzed period, 203 ecological processors were registered; 502 merchants; 25 importers; 25 exporters and six aquaculture production units. There are 365,894 hectares of ecologically cultivated arable land, of which with cereals over 160,154 hectares, with dry legumes and protein crops for grains - 6,365 hectares, with tuberculiferous and root crops - 272.85 hectares, with industrial crops - 116,506 hectares, with green harvested plants - 78,241 hectares, with fresh vegetables (including melons and strawberries) – 1,861 hectares and uncultivated land 2,333. hectares. At the same time, there are 21,563 hectares of organic permanent crops, of which 9,739 hectares of orchards, 2,529 hectares of vines, 2,706 hectares of fruit bushes and 6,588 hectares with walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, chestnuts, to which 257,062 hectares of meadows are added permanent.</p> <p>Specifically, for the Southeast region of Romania and according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development data the largest areas with cereals cultivated in the ecological system are in Tulcea (over 39,000 hectares).</p> <p>In Tulcea is located the largest eco area is exploited, according to the data provided to APIA, by SC Delta Rom Agriculture S.R.L., a company controlled by Fri-EL International Holding, a company with its registered office in Luxembourg and which carries out projects in Romania and in the renewable energy segment. Delta Rom Agriculture S.R.L., with operations in the Danube Delta, reported in 2022 business of 26.6 million lei and losses of 19.2 million lei, exploits 10,000 hectares and is undergoing reorganization. According to the data of the certification bodies, the company exploits more than 7,200 hectares cultivated with cereals in an ecological system.</p> <p>One of the largest important areas cultivated with organic cereals is in Constanța (over 28,773 hectares), the most extensive areas with organic legumes are in Constanța (593 hectares) and</p>

	Tulcea (544 hectares), and organic vegetables are mainly grown in Tulcea (125.8 hectares).
Economic aspect: the economic impact of the activity	<p>Below, you can see some examples showing the positive impact from an economic point of view that organic agriculture brings to the south-east region of Romania:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Organic Farm "BioDan" from Constanta reported an increase in income of approximately 40% after the transition to organic farming, due to the higher prices obtained for their products. The farm hired 15 additional workers for cultivation, harvesting and processing, helping to reduce local unemployment. -EcoDelta Agricultural Cooperative from Tulcea: The cooperative has started to export organic honey and grains to Germany and the Netherlands, generating additional income and establishing new international trade relations. Diversification: The members of the cooperative now also produce organic vegetables through crop rotation, which has increased the economic resilience of each household. -Brăila Organic Products Fair: The regular organization of an organic products fair increased demand and allowed farmers to sell their products at premium prices directly to local consumers. Education and awareness: The fair organized educational workshops on the benefits of organic products, increasing awareness and demand for such products. - The "Greenhouses project in Calarasi: The implementation of automated greenhouses powered by renewable energies reduced production costs and increased productivity, giving farmers a competitive advantage. - European Funds and Subsidies: - Agricultural Sustainability Improvement Project: Farmers in the south-east of Romania benefit from European funds for the transition to organic agriculture, covering the initial costs and ensuring long-term financial support. These examples demonstrate the positive economic impact of organic agriculture and the concrete ways in which it can transform the rural economy in south-eastern Romania.
Main challenges of the activity in the region	<p>Organic agriculture in the southeast of Romania faces numerous concrete challenges, for exemple:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited use of modern technology and infrastructure necessary for organic production. The farmers from Bărăgan have difficulties in accessing modern equipment for ecological agricultural practices. - Difficulties in obtaining financing and subsidies for organic farming, many farmers in Constanța County cannot access European funds due to lack of knowledge or resources to draw up eligible projects. - The market for organic products is still small and prices are often uncompetitive, the organic producers in the Tulcea area find it difficult to find stable outlets for their products, which affects their incomes. - Lack of education and training in organic farming because many farmers in the south-east of Romania do not know the

	<p>techniques of organic cultivation and its advantages, which limits their options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complex and expensive bureaucratic procedures for organic certification. The farmers in Dobrogea are discouraged by the long and expensive process required to obtain organic certifications. - Climatic variability and weather extremes affect organic production. For example the periods of drought in Bărăgan can drastically reduce organic harvests, as these crops require natural resource management. - Conventional agriculture still dominates the region and offers products at lower prices. The organic farmers in Constanța cannot compete with the lower prices of conventional agricultural products.
Policies and institutions	
<p>What are the main national and local policies that influence the activity?</p>	<p>In the south-east of Romania, organic agriculture is supported by a series of national and local policies like National Rural Development Program, measure 11: Payments for organic farming, including conversion to organic farming and maintenance of organic land. A farmer from Constanța county receives subsidies for the conversion of a conventional vine plantation to an ecological one. European Regulation 2018/848: Regulates organic production and labeling of organic products, being directly applicable in Romania. Organic producers from Tulcea County must comply with labeling and certification requirements to sell organic products in the EU. The "Guarantee for Young Farmers" program: Facilitates access to financing for young farmers interested in organic farming. A young man from Brăila county obtains an advantageous loan to establish an ecological vegetable farm. National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030 which promotes ecological agriculture as part of sustainable development objectives. Projects to adopt sustainable agricultural practices in Galati and Călărași counties, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture. Subsidies for Organic Farming: Direct payments and area aids for organic farms, for example the farmers in Ialomița County receive subsidies for growing organic cereals. Promotion and Marketing Programs: Information and promotion campaigns for ecological products on the domestic and international market. A cooperative from Tulcea county participates in an international fair of organic products with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture. Research and Innovation Projects: Funding of research projects for the development of ecological agricultural technologies. The Lower Danube University in Galati collaborates with local farmers for research on improving the ecological cultivation of vegetables. Sustainability Infrastructure, programs to improve infrastructure for organic farming, such as processing and storage facilities. Modernization of an ecological products processing factory in Constanța county</p>
<p>What are the bodies and institutions working in the</p>	<p>In the south-east of Romania there are several companies and institutions active in the field of organic agriculture.</p>

<p>field related to the activity in the region?</p>	<p>AgriBioCert (Constanța) that provides certification and supervision in organic agriculture, ensuring compliance with ecological standards in various farms.</p> <p>Eco Ferm (Tulcea) which is specialized in ecological crops, producing organic vegetables and fruits, respecting the methods of ecological agriculture.</p> <p>Enisa Farm (Constanța), a farm that practices ecological agriculture, producing vegetables, fruits and bee products sustainably.</p> <p>Bio Danubius (Brăila) with organic products, including cereals and legumes, ecological certification, export to international markets.</p> <p>Eco Farmacia Naturii (Constanța), a mixed farm that produces organic vegetables, fruits and bee products, also offering educational tours about ecological agriculture.</p> <p>Blue Dot – Asociația Bio România (Tulcea), a project dedicated to promoting ecological agriculture and educating farmers about ecological practices.</p> <p>Eco Green Mare (Constanța) which is a producer of organic vegetables and fruits, with an emphasis on sustainability and environmental protection.</p> <p>Ghizdan Farm (Tulcea), an ecological farm that produces organically certified vegetables and fruits, also has subscription packages for weekly deliveries.</p> <p>These examples represent only a part of the ecological agriculture initiatives in the southeast of Romania, all of which are dedicated to promoting sustainable and healthy practices for the environment and consumers.</p>
<p>Are there specific incentives or programs to promote the activity? (list any national, regional funding)</p>	<p>Some incentives and programs to promote the ecological agriculture in southeast Romania are represented by National Rural Development Program, measure 11, which offers support for conversion to organic farming methods and maintenance of existing ecological practices. It provides financing for farmers practicing organic farming and, measure 10 which is referring to agri-environment and climate, which includes payments for environmentally friendly farming methods, often complementary to organic farming.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development provides various forms of financial support for organic producers, including subsidies and tax incentives.</p> <p>Regional Programs: Development Regions in Romania, such as the South-East Region, can access European funds through the Regional Operational Programs for projects that also include the promotion of ecological agriculture.</p> <p>European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development which supports sustainable development projects, including ecological agriculture, and is implemented through PNDR. Horizon Europe Program: Provides funding for research and innovation projects, including in the field of sustainable and ecological agriculture.</p> <p>LIFE Program: Funds projects that contribute to the transition to sustainable agriculture and environmental protection.</p>

	<p>Erasmus+ Program for Agriculture: Provides opportunities for training and exchange of best practices in organic agriculture through international partnerships.</p> <p>Local initiatives and NGOs: Bio Romania Association, it carries out various projects and initiatives for the promotion of ecological agriculture, including in the south-east of Romania. Eco Ruralis, an organization that supports organic and peasant farming by providing resources and training for farmers.</p>
Education and training opportunities	
<p>What training opportunity is available?</p>	<p>In the south-eastern region of Romania, there are several possibilities for training in the field of organic agriculture, through various organizations, educational institutions and financing programs. Here are some of them:</p> <p>University "Dănearea de Jos" from Galati which offers courses and study programs in the field of agriculture and environmental protection that include modules on ecological agriculture. Ovidius University of Constanța which has study programs in environmental sciences and agronomy, which may include specific training in ecological agriculture.</p> <p>Also, in the counties of southeastern Romania, various agricultural colleges offer professional training courses, some of which may have specializations in ecological agriculture. Vocational Training Centers of the Payments and Intervention Agency for Agriculture that provides training courses for farmers interested in organic practices and accessing subsidies for organic agriculture. Periodically organize courses and seminars on ecological agriculture, in collaboration with various institutions and organizations.</p> <p>We also have some non-Governmental Organizations that offers such opportunities like Eco Ruralis which provides workshops and training for farmers interested in organic farming, including through partnerships with other local and international organizations. Bio Romania Association which organizes events and training courses on ecological and sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Projects and programs financed by European funds, for example the National Rural Development Program which includes measures that finance professional training and consultancy activities for farmers who practice or want to adopt ecological agriculture. Erasmus+ Projects because Erasmus+ partnerships can provide opportunities for training and exchange of best practices in organic farming at European level.</p> <p>Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions, often, such events include seminars and workshops dedicated to organic farming, where farmers can learn new techniques and practices.</p> <p>Online courses and e-learning platforms because we have numerous platforms that offer online courses on organic farming, for example, MOOCs and other educational resources available on global learning platforms. To access these training opportunities, it is recommended to check the websites and official announcements of the mentioned institutions, get in touch with relevant local organizations and attend events in the region.</p>

<p>What is the role of the university and research in the development of this specific activity?</p>	<p>Universities and research institutions play an essential role in the development and promotion of ecological agriculture in the south-east of Romania. These institutions contribute through education, applied research and dissemination of results to farmers and local communities. In this regard we have the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Bucharest which offers bachelor and master programs focused on organic agriculture, preparing students to become specialists in the field. The University conducts numerous research projects on sustainable practices, soil microbes and integrated pest management. The institution owns experimental stations where ecological techniques are tested and new methods are demonstrated to farmers. Universities collaborate with local cooperatives and farmers to share the latest discoveries and technologies in organic farming. Research-Development Institute for Sheep and Goat Breeding–Palas, Constanța, the Institute develops ecological methods for raising sheep and goats, including organic feeding and waste management. Horizon 2020 "Bio-Value" project involves several universities and research institutes in Romania, which collaborate to promote sustainable and ecological agricultural practices. The "Eco-AgriNet" project funded by the EU focuses on creating a network of ecological farmers and researchers to share knowledge and best practices.</p> <p>Organization of courses and workshops for farmers, where researchers and university professors present their studies and proposals for ecological practices. Agrotechnology pilot projects, implementation in South-East Romania of some pilot projects that use green technologies, such as drones, soil sensors and digital platforms for farm management ecological.</p> <p>Precision Agriculture research focuses on using data and sensors to optimize inputs and minimize negative environmental impact. Through these initiatives and many others, the universities and research institutions in southeastern Romania are helping to develop a robust ecological agriculture, providing educational and technical support to local farmers and contributing to the sustainability and competitiveness of the agricultural sector in the region.</p>
<p>SWOT analysis</p>	
<p>Strengths:</p>	<p>Fertile Soil and Favourable Climate because the region benefits from excellent natural conditions for the cultivation of various organic crops; Knowledge and Research, we can find prestigious universities and agricultural research centers support the development of ecological agricultural practices; Increasing Demand because there is a growing demand for organic products, both in the local market and for export; Political Support, organic farming is supported by EU agricultural policies and subsidies; Biodiversity, the ecological practices support biodiversity and environmental health; Innovative Technologies, access to new technologies that improve efficiency and productivity.</p>
<p>Weaknesses:</p>	<p>High Costs, the costs of starting and maintaining an organic farm are higher compared to conventional farming; Lack of</p>

	<p>Infrastructure, the infrastructure and supply chains for green products may be underdeveloped; Limited Access to Financing, the small farmers may encounter difficulties in accessing the credits and financing necessary to switch to organic farming; Education and Awareness, the level of awareness and education about the benefits of organic farming is still low among some farming communities; Certification, the ecological certification process can be complicated and expensive.</p>
Opportunities:	<p>Market Grow, with increasing interest in healthy eating, the market for organic products is expanding; Agricultural Tourism, the development of ecological agricultural tourism can bring additional income to farmers and promote local products; Access to EU Funds, there are European funds available for ecological development projects; Technology and Innovation, innovations in agricultural technology can reduce costs and improve production efficiency; Cooperation and Associations, forming cooperatives and associations can improve access to markets and resources.</p>
Threats:	<p>Climate Changes, extreme weather phenomena can negatively affect ecological agricultural production; Competition, there is an intense competition and higher prices of organic products can limit market access; Inconsistent Policies, due to changes in agricultural policies or regulations can create uncertainty for farmers; Soil Degradation, excessive land use without adequate conservation measures can lead to soil degradation; Deceptions and Frauds, products falsely labelled as green can undermine consumer confidence.</p>

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High Quality Products Production	
RO22	South-East , Romania
Technical information (state of art of the activity)	
<p>Quantification: quantitative data of the activity (es. how many agritourism in the region, how much organic production etc etc)</p>	<p>Agriculture has traditionally been the backbone of the Romanian economy; more than one-third of the land is devoted to cultivation (including vineyards, orchards, and vegetable gardens).</p> <p>Covering 35,762 km² or 15% of the country's total area, the south-eastern region is the second largest of Romania's 8 regions.</p> <p>The products that have a national recognition in Romania are: Traditional Romanian Products, Consecrated Romanian Recipes, Mountain Products. In general, these types of food are an important part of the culture, history, identity, heritage and local economy of a region or country and include elements specific to each country's cuisine as more emphasis is given to the concept of national identity and traditionalism.</p> <p>The statistical data shows that in Romania there were 764 products certified as Traditional Products (between the 2020-2022). Of these, 68 certified as Traditional Products were in South-East Region: Constanta = 1, Brăila = 0, Buzău = 33, Galați = 14, Tulcea = 20, Vrancea = 0.</p> <p>Romania has a series of traditional food products that, in addition to the name, also have product-specific mentions on the label, which ensure its protection in the European Union: protected designation of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI) and guaranteed traditional specialty (STG). In addition to</p>

	<p>these, the EU protects a series of distillates (horinca, palinca, vinars, țuica) produced in Romania with the mention of geographical indication (GI). The total list includes more than 70 products, both traditional foods and alcoholic beverages, and of the traditional foods, 3 are from the Southeast Region. These are:</p> <p>Plăcinta Dobrogeană/ Dobrogean pie - IGP (Plăcinta Dobrogeană is a pastry product manufactured in the Dobrogea region of south-eastern Romania), Scrumbia de Dunăre afumată /Danube Smoked Mackerel- PGI, Salata cu icre de stiuca de Tulcea/Tulcea pike roe salad - PGI</p> <p>At the level of the wine sector, almost half of the area cultivated with vines, respectively 41.5%, is located in the territory of the southeast region. Vrancea County has the country's largest wine basin. The vineyards of Murfatlar, Sarica Niculitel, Odobești, Panciu, Cotești, Dealu Mare through its part in Buzău County, Nicorești, Bujorului Hills, Pietroasele produce famous wines both nationally and internationally.</p> <p>A special feature is the Insuraței vineyard, from Brăila county, on which the Insuraței DOC was established.</p> <p>Of the 59 wineries in the Southeast Region, most are in Vrancea County, followed by Constanța County with 15 wineries.</p> <p>Number of wineries in the counties of the Southeast Region: Vrancea: 19 wineries; Galați: 8 wineries; Tulcea: 8 wineries; Constanta: 15 wineries; Buzău: 8 wineries</p>
<p>Economic aspect: the economic impact of the activity</p>	<p>Agriculture plays an important role in the region's economy. The region ranks first in the country in terms of the area of fruitful vineyards. Fishing and aquaculture, along with fish processing and trade in fish and fish products, are traditional activities in the region.</p> <p>With a GDP value of 118.6 billion lei, in 2021, the Southeast region contributed 10% to the country's economy, and the GDP/inhabitant was 10,318 euros/inhabitant. For the economy of the Southeast region, an average annual growth rate of 4.2% is predicted, slightly below the national level (4.3%)</p> <p>Brăila County has a multitude of industrial branches, the most important being the food and clothing industries. Agriculture is a relevant field (it has a weight in GDP). The industry of Vrancea county is diverse, especially the food industry, drinks, etc. Agriculture, however, is of great importance, the county being famous for its vine culture. Tulcea County has a high tourism potential due to the Danube Delta, which is an invaluable natural wealth.</p> <p>At the end of 2022, in the South-East Region there were 14,703 companies with foreign participation in the share capital whose total value of the subscribed capital was 2,127 million euros, according to the ONRC bulletin, Companies with foreign participation in the capital - Statistical summary of data from the Register Central of Commerce.</p> <p>The South-East region attracted 3,904 million euros of FDI, representing 3.6% of the total value of the FDI balance in Romania, on December 31, 2022, according to the BNR, the Report "Foreign Direct Investments in Romania in 2022"</p>

	<p>High quality traditional regional foods can bring a competitive advantage and, we must recognize that the place of origin has a great importance on the value of agricultural production and implicitly on the development of the region.</p> <p>Consumers, producers and public authorities around the world are showing a growing interest in food and agricultural products related to their place of origin.</p>
Main challenges of the activity in the region	<p>Traditional products represent an opportunity for the Romanian producer and a market niche which can be accessible at European and national level.</p> <p>To differentiate industrial products from traditional ones, strict rules were imposed, rules which the traditional producers must obey for attestation. Starting with 2014, traditional products must meet the requirements imposed by the joint order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Health and National Consumer Protection Authority regarding the attestation of the traditional products. If until 2014 there was a permissive legislation which allowed easy registration for more than 4000 products, a lot of which accomplished by industrial producers, after the changes to legislation, the rules became stricter, the control procedures more severe, and after October 2014 almost 90% of the products declared as traditional did not receive the necessary certification.</p>
Policies and institutions	
What are the main national and local policies that influence the activity?	<p>The Romanian legislation regarding the high-quality products sector is aligned with the European norms in the field, integrating also the national particularities.</p> <p>The order of attestation of traditional products no. 360 of October 31, 2013, developed by the Ministry of Agriculture together with the National Authority for Consumer Protection (ANPC) and the Ministry of Health, establishes the conditions and criteria for their attestation. According to the order, the General Directorate of Food Industry, through the specialized department with attributions in the field of traditional products within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), establishes and administers the National Register of Traditional Products (RNPT). The register is published annually on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.</p> <p>Also, the development of high-quality production is stimulated through financing programs with European funds.</p> <p>The strategic priorities for the period 2020-2030 aim at reorganizing the agricultural research system with a more financially sustainable basis and pursuing better integration into European research networks. These efforts will be aligned with Romania's commitments assumed in the National Reform Plan (which translates the EU 2020 Strategy into national priorities) which provides for funding of 2% of GDP (1% public +1% private) for research activities.</p>
What are the bodies and institutions working in the	<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry of the Environment National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority</p>

field related to the activity in the region?	The National Office of the Vine and Wine Products Interprofessional Organization for Vegetable and Fruit Food Products South East Regional Development Agency
Are there specific incentives or programs to promote the activity? (list any national, regional funding)	Although the number of traditionally certified products has decreased, their support can contribute to regional economic development. Traditional products must continue to be supported, this being one of the solutions to increase the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. At the same time, this growth determines the increase in the number of producers (associations) of such products, the economic development of the region through the use of specific products and through the recognition and expansion of products on the national and international market.
Education and training opportunities	
What training opportunity is available?	There are no training opportunity available.
What is the role of the university and research in the development of this specific activity?	<p>Within the universities of the South-Eastern region of Romania, there are faculties specialized in the study of natural sciences and agriculture. Their mission is to train specialists for one of the most complex fields of the national economy, agriculture. They will have a rich theoretical and practical training, being able to manage the increasingly complex problems of Romanian agriculture. Thus, they will be able to acquire skills in fields such as: agricultural production technologies, plant protection, operation of specific equipment, pedology, agrotechnics, agrochemistry, zootechnics and animal nutrition, etc., they can exercise management functions, marketing and research activities. All this in accordance with the new specific laws in agriculture, with the dynamics of the land fund, with the new European requirements. The future graduates of the faculties are trained for research, pedagogy and methodology in order to become teaching staff in pre-university and university education.</p> <p>The integration of the research-development-innovation component is based on a functional connection between consulting services and research institutions and the research activity carried out in universities. This approach is mutually beneficial for the parties involved, as it allows the promotion and support of the research requested by the farmers, while the research structures can be used by the technology transfer partnerships. This will be linked to the agricultural extension system.</p> <p>Universities, through their active involvement in the socio-economic environment, participate in Research projects, financed from national and international funds, which help to improve the process of obtaining high quality products.</p>
SWOT analysis	
Strengths:	The South-East region includes almost all landforms: the Danube meadow, the Bărăganu plain, the Dobrogea plateau with

	the Măcin Mountains, and the northwest part of the region includes part of the Curbura Carpathians and Subcarpathians.
Weaknesses:	<p>Although more than 157 operators/farmers are certified, their number is insignificant compared to the existing potential. In Romania, over 7.5 million households are registered in the agricultural register that can produce products that preserve local tradition and culture.</p> <p>Considering that these products are obtained in small holdings and those who produce them, transmit these methods from generation to generation, most of them not having experience in the registration procedure of traditional products,</p> <p>The number of Romanian products recognized at European level is insignificant to have an impact on the market, resulting in an acute need to support the acquisition and promotion of such products.</p> <p>Romanian agriculture is still strongly dependent on weather conditions, which generates large fluctuations in farmers' incomes, and tools are needed to stabilize them.</p>
Opportunities:	<p>There is a need to support them within a NRDP measure. The measure comes to meet them to help them produce and capitalize on the products on the market.</p> <p>Promotion of trade, collaboration and the exchange of good practices in the high quality products sector within the south-east region of Romania and the EU</p>
Threats:	<p>The reduced participation of farmers and groups of farmers in quality schemes is related to additional costs, association commitments and the fact that the valorization of products does not ensure the recovery of their certification costs. All this constitutes an obstacle for those who apply in order to obtain protection at the European level.</p> <p>The reduced physical and economic dimensions of agricultural holdings, the lack of associative structures, but also the deficient credit and guarantee system.</p> <p>Obtaining the credits necessary to make the investments represented one of the major problems of the farmers.</p> <p>The risk of incorrect practices and fraud</p>

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Short Linkages between Production and Consumption	
RO22	South-East, Romania
Technical information (state of art of the activity)	
<p>Quantification: quantitative data of the activity (es. how many agritourism in the region, how much organic production etc etc)</p>	<p>Short linkages between production and consumption refer to the reduction of the distance and intermediaries between the place where goods are produced and where they are consumed. This concept is integral to various economic, environmental, and social models that emphasize localism and sustainability.</p> <p>In Southeast Romania, short linkages between production and consumption are particularly relevant due to the region's agricultural potential and the growing interest in sustainable local economies.</p> <p>Southeast Romania, particularly the Dobrogea region, is known for its fertile soil and favourable climate, making it an important</p>

	<p>agricultural area. The region produces a variety of crops including grains, fruits, vegetables, and vineyards, supporting a rich local food supply.</p> <p>Urban areas in Southeast Romania are increasingly seeing the development of community gardens, where residents grow their own vegetables and herbs, enhancing local food security. Innovative urban farming methods are being explored to maximize space and produce fresh food within city limits.</p> <p>In order to provide a complete picture of the activity of short links between production and consumption in the south-east of Romania, it is necessary to analyse specific quantitative data that reflect this dynamic. This data may include information on the number of local farmers and producers, cultivated agricultural area, production and sales volumes, and the overall economic impact of local markets and cooperatives. Unfortunately, access to exact data may be limited, but we can look at some general aspects and available sources.</p> <p>According to the available data, in the counties of south-eastern Romania (Constanța, Tulcea, Brăila, Galați, Buzău, Vrancea), the number of agricultural holdings is significant. For example, in Constanta, there are thousands of small and medium-sized farms that contribute to local production. Most farms in this region are small (under 5 hectares), which makes them ideal for participating in local markets and implementing short links between production and consumption.</p> <p>Southeast Romania is known for various crops, including cereals (wheat, corn), vegetables, fruits and vines. For example, Constanța county has over 300,000 hectares of arable land, a significant part being dedicated to these crops. There is a growing trend towards organic farming, with increasing areas cultivated sustainably.</p> <p>Direct sales of agricultural products in local markets generate significant income for farmers. Estimates show that local markets can generate millions of lei annually in south-eastern Romania. Local agricultural activities and markets create jobs not only in agriculture, but also in related fields such as transport, logistics and trade.</p> <p>Local events and farmers' markets attract tourists, thus contributing to the local economy. For example, wine festivals in Murfatlar generate significant income for the tourism sector.</p>
<p>Economic aspect: the economic impact of the activity</p>	<p>The economic impact of short linkages between production and consumption in Southeast Romania is multifaceted, offering significant benefits such as stimulating local economies, enhancing economic resilience, promoting equity, and encouraging sustainable practices. By addressing challenges related to infrastructure, policy, and consumer behaviour, the region can maximize these benefits and create a more prosperous and sustainable economic future.</p> <p>Money spent on locally produced goods tends to stay within the community longer, as local producers and retailers are more likely to spend their income on other local goods and services. For that, local businesses, including farms, markets, and artisanal</p>

	<p>producers, create jobs for residents, reducing unemployment rates and fostering economic stability.</p> <p>Short linkages help SMEs grow by providing direct access to local markets without the need for costly intermediaries. Local businesses often innovate to meet the specific needs of their communities, leading to a diverse and resilient local economy.</p> <p>Encouraging a variety of crops and agricultural practices can prevent over-reliance on a single commodity, spreading risk and enhancing economic stability. And by promoting local products and traditions can attract tourists, further diversifying the economy and bringing in additional revenue.</p>
Main challenges of the activity in the region	<p>In some rural areas, inadequate infrastructure can hinder efficient distribution and transportation of goods to urban centres.</p> <p>Increasing consumer awareness about the benefits of local products is essential for the growth of short linkages. Educational campaigns and local branding can help.</p> <p>The availability of certain products may be limited by seasonal variations, affecting the consistency of supply.</p>
Policies and institutions	
What are the main national and local policies that influence the activity?	<p>National and local policies in Romania, especially in the south-east of the country, play an essential role in promoting short links between production and consumption. By supporting local agriculture, promoting local markets and rural tourism initiatives, and implementing sustainable strategies, these policies contribute to regional economic development and the creation of more resilient and sustainable communities.</p> <p>These policies may include subsidies, regulations, rural development programs, and initiatives to promote local products. Here are the main policies that influence these links:</p> <p>National policies</p> <p>The National Rural Development Program (PNDR) provides financing for small and medium-sized farms, for the modernization of agricultural infrastructure and for the promotion of local products. This program supports farmers who practice organic farming, thus promoting sustainable local production.</p> <p>The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), through which Romanian farmers benefit from direct payments from the EU, which help them maintain their competitiveness and invest in sustainable practices. This policy includes measures for rural development, such as supporting infrastructure and diversifying the rural economy.</p> <p>The Law on Agricultural Cooperatives stipulates that agricultural cooperatives benefit from tax exemptions and other fiscal facilities, encouraging farmers to collaborate and market their products together. Given that cooperatives can more easily gain access to local and national markets, they have the opportunity to increase the visibility and sales of local products.</p> <p>The National Strategy for Sustainable Development includes objectives for promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing the</p>

	<p>carbon footprint, thus supporting short links between production and consumption.</p> <p>Local Policies</p> <p>Local support programs for agriculture developed by some county councils to provide subsidies and grants to local farmers to help them develop their businesses and promote local products.</p> <p>Training and education programs for farmers, organized by local authorities, contribute to improving the knowledge and skills needed to effectively manage agricultural businesses.</p> <p>The promotion of Local Fairs and Markets in the cities and communes of south-eastern Romania offers local farmers a direct platform to sell fresh and traditional products.</p> <p>Fairs and festivals, local events that celebrate traditional and cultural products, such as wine festivals, are supported by local authorities to attract both local consumers and tourists.</p> <p>Rural tourism and agritourism initiatives through tourism development programs support farmers to diversify their incomes and promote local products, while collaboration between local authorities and the private sector to promote agritourism and local products contributes to the creation of a sustainable economic ecosystem.</p> <p>Public health and healthy eating programs run through nutrition education campaigns run by local authorities promote the consumption of local and healthy products, while programs that include local products in school menus support both children's health and local producers.</p>
<p>What are the bodies and institutions working in the field related to the activity in the region?</p>	<p>In the southeast of Romania, there are various bodies and institutions that contribute to the development and promotion of short links between production and consumption. These include both governmental entities and non-governmental organizations, producer associations and agricultural cooperatives.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) is responsible for the development and implementation of national policies in the field of agriculture and rural development. MADR administers programs such as the National Rural Development Program (PNDR), which supports local agriculture and rural development.</p> <p>County Agricultural Directorates - are local structures of MADR that provide technical and administrative support to farmers and agricultural organizations in the respective counties. They carry out activities that involve the implementation of agricultural policies, the management of European and national funds, and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>County and Local Councils, which support regional economic development through various local initiatives and projects. They run projects that organize local markets, agricultural fairs and events that promote local products.</p> <p>Producer Organizations and Associations, such as:</p>

	<p>The Bio Romania Association, which promotes organic agriculture and organic products at the national level, including in the south-east of Romania.</p> <p>The National Federation of Agricultural Producers in Romania (FNPAR) represents the interests of Romanian farmers and promotes sustainable agriculture and short links between production and consumption.</p> <p>Agricultural Cooperatives and Local Associations, such as the "Dobrogea Sud" Agricultural Cooperative, facilitate collaboration between farmers and their access to local markets.</p> <p>Educational and Research Institutions, such as universities with faculties with an agricultural profile, such as the Ovidius University of Constanta, which includes the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences, which have important roles in agricultural education and research.</p> <p>Agricultural Research and Development Stations, which contribute to the development and implementation of new agricultural technologies and practices.</p> <p>Activities: Agricultural applied research, demonstrations and knowledge transfer to farmers.</p> <p>Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), such as: ADEPT Transylvania Foundation, which, although based in Transylvania, ADEPT collaborates with farmers from all over Romania to promote biodiversity and sustainable agriculture. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Romania - promotes nature conservation and sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>Programs and Local Initiatives The LEADER program finances local rural development initiatives within local action groups (LAGs), economic and social development projects, which include the promotion of short links between production and consumption.</p> <p>Local Fairs and Markets, such as: the Farmer's Market in Constanța and the Traditional Products Fairs in Tulcea.</p>
<p>Are there specific incentives or programs to promote the activity? (list any national, regional funding)</p>	<p>There are various incentives and specific programs aimed at promoting short links between production and consumption in South-East Romania. They are implemented by the government, non-governmental organizations, and European institutions. These incentives and programs are essential for the development and sustainability of short links between production and consumption in South-East Romania, contributing to the creation of a robust and sustainable local economy.</p> <p>National and European programs, such as: National Rural Development Program (PNDR). PNDR 2014-2020 and its continuation in the period 2021-2027 provide funding for projects supporting rural development and agriculture. The objective of the program is to increase the competitiveness of small and medium-sized farms and to support the marketing and sale of local products.</p>

	<p>The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) provides subsidies and financial support for farmers in EU member states, including Romania.</p> <p>Pillar II (Rural Development): Includes measures supporting short supply chains and the development of local markets.</p> <p>Programs and Local Initiatives</p> <p>Local Action Groups (LAGs) are local partnerships formed by representatives of the public, private and civil society sectors. They implement local development strategies financed by the LEADER initiative. They finance local projects that promote short links between producers and consumers, including fairs, local markets, and cooperatives.</p> <p>Regional Development Programs</p> <p>County councils and local authorities in South-East Romania implement various programs and initiatives that support local agriculture and local markets, such as local markets and fairs, training programs for farmers on product marketing and sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>Incentives and Support for Cooperation and Organization - Agricultural cooperatives benefit from various tax incentives, including tax breaks and access to subsidies. Their aim is to encourage the formation and development of cooperatives that can facilitate the sale of local products and access to markets.</p> <p>Support programs for organic farming, i.e. subsidies and support for farmers practicing organic farming, including organic certification and marketing of organic products.</p> <p>Initiatives of non-governmental organizations, such as the ADEPT Transilvania Foundation and WWF Romania, which implement projects to support small farmers and promote local products, as well as education and training programs, the development of local infrastructure and the creation of partnerships between producers and consumers.</p>
Education and training opportunities	
<p>What training opportunity is available?</p>	<p>There are various training opportunities available to promote short links between production and consumption in South-East Romania. These are offered through government institutions, non-governmental organizations, universities and private initiatives. These training opportunities are essential for improving the knowledge and skills of local farmers and producers, contributing to the sustainable development of short links between production and consumption in South-East Romania.</p> <p>Courses and Training Programs Offered by the County Agricultural Directorates, with the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultivation techniques and production improvement Certification of ecological products

	<p>Marketing and direct selling of products</p> <p>Training Programs Funded by PNDR and the LEADER Initiative having as the theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm management Creation and management of agricultural cooperatives Modern technologies in agriculture Marketing of agricultural products and development of local markets <p>Training Programs Offered by the Ovidius University of Constanta, which trains specialists in the fields of Agriculture and Horticulture, Biology, Geography, Environmental Science through the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences</p> <p>The ADEPT Transilvania Foundation offers training programs for small farmers, focusing on sustainable practices and access to markets.</p> <p>WWF Romania implements projects for the education and training of farmers in sustainable agricultural practices and the promotion of local products.</p> <p>The "Dobrogea Sud" Agricultural Cooperative offers its members training and education programs to improve agricultural practices and access to markets.</p> <p>Training programs within European funding projects</p> <p>Training programs offered by local chambers of commerce and industry</p>
<p>What is the role of the university and research in the development of this specific activity?</p>	<p>The university and research play a crucial role in developing short links between production and consumption in South-East Romania through education, innovation, technology transfer and support for local communities.</p> <p>The university offers undergraduate, master's and doctoral courses and programs in relevant fields such as Agriculture and Horticulture, Biology, Geography, Environmental Science.</p> <p>The university and research centres in the south-east of Romania carry out research in the field of sustainable agriculture, developing new technologies and agricultural practices that can be applied by small farmers. Involvement in national and international research projects exploring innovative methods of production and distribution, reducing post-harvest losses and improving the quality of local products.</p> <p>The university provides consultancy services to farmers, helping them to implement new technologies and efficient farming practices. These services include farm visits, hands-on demonstrations and technical support.</p> <p>The university organizes conferences, symposia and workshops where farmers, researchers and agricultural professionals can share knowledge, innovations and best practices.</p> <p>The university contributes with studies and research that can contribute to the development of public policies favourable to the development of short links between production and consumption.</p>
<p>SWOT analysis</p>	
<p>Strengths:</p>	<p>Fertile soils and favorable climate for various agricultural crops.</p>

	<p>Strong agricultural tradition and extensive local knowledge.</p> <p>A wide variety of local products including vegetables, fruits, grains and wines.</p> <p>There are local producers who practice organic and sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>The presence of local markets where producers can sell directly to consumers.</p> <p>Agricultural cooperatives that help centralize and distribute local produce.</p> <p>Increasing interest and support for organic farming and sustainable practices.</p>
Weaknesses:	<p>Underdeveloped rural and transport infrastructure that can limit access to markets.</p> <p>Lack of modern storage and processing facilities for agricultural products.</p> <p>Lack of knowledge and resources to promote products to a wider audience.</p> <p>Difficulties in accessing funds and subsidies for development and modernization.</p> <p>Bureaucratic barriers that complicate the process of accessing financing.</p> <p>Agricultural production is often fragmented, with many small farms unable to produce large quantities of products for larger markets.</p>
Opportunities:	<p>Consumers are increasingly interested in local, fresh and organic products.</p> <p>Opportunities to capitalize on the trend towards healthy and sustainable food.</p> <p>Financing programs and subsidies offered by the government and the European Union for the development of local and sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Creating synergies between tourism and agriculture through the development of agritourism.</p> <p>Innovations in logistics and supply chains that can reduce costs and improve efficiency.</p>
Threats:	<p>Competing with imported products that may be cheaper due to economies of scale.</p> <p>Price pressures that can affect the profitability of local producers.</p> <p>Vulnerability to extreme weather conditions and climate change that can affect agricultural production.</p> <p>Increased risks of drought, flooding and other adverse weather events.</p> <p>Strict regulations and complicated bureaucratic procedures can discourage small farmers from accessing funds and support.</p> <p>Frequent changes in agricultural policies that can create uncertainties.</p> <p>The decline of young people's interest in agriculture as a field of activity.</p>

Institutul Național de Statistică (INS)/ National Institute of Statistics, <https://insse.ro/cms/>

Ministerul Agriculturii și Dezvoltării Rurale (MADR)/ Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, <https://www.madr.ro/>

Direcțiile Agricole Județene (County Agricultural Directorates):

- Direcția pentru Agricultură Județeană Constanța/ Constanța County Directorate for Agriculture, <https://www.dadr-ct.ro/>;
- Direcției pentru Agricultură a Județului Braila/ Braila County Directorate for Agriculture, <https://www.dadr-braila.ro/>;
- Direcția pentru Agricultură Județeană Galați/ Galați County Directorate for Agriculture, <https://dajgalati.ro/>;
- Direcția pentru Agricultură Județeană Vrancea/ Vrancea County Directorate for Agriculture, <http://www.dajvrancea.ro/>;
- Direcției pentru Agricultură Județeană Buzau/ Buzau County Directorate for Agriculture, <https://www.dadrbuzau.ro/>;
- Direcția pentru Agricultură Județeană Tulcea/ Tulcea County Directorate for Agriculture, <https://dadrtulcea.ro/>;

Quayes, Shakil & Rashid, Salim. (2008). „Linkage Between Production and Consumption of an Agricultural Household”. Journal of Developing Areas. 42. 117-34. 10.1353/jda.0.0009.

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Agrotourism	
RO22	South-East, Romania

Technical information (state of art of the activity)

Quantification: quantitative data of the activity (es. how many agritourism in the region, how much organic production etc etc)

1. In Romania, the tourist accommodation capacity according to tourist reception structures, in 2022, was 3.7% higher compared to the year 2021, according to national institute of statistics. In 2022, hotels held the largest share in the total tourist accommodation capacity in operation (59.4%), being followed by agro-tourism guesthouses (15.0%), tourist guesthouses (10.6%), tourist villas (4.4%), hostels (3.4%) and motels (2.7%). The rest of the guys of tourist reception structures with tourist accommodation functions represented 4.5% of the total tourist accommodation capacity in operation.

Agritourism in South-East Romania has seen significant growth, offering tourists unique opportunities to experience rural life and participate in traditional agricultural activities. Here is a detailed look at this sector, with quantitative data and concrete examples from Constanța, Tulcea, Brăila and Galați counties.

In Constanta the number of agro-tourism guesthouses is approximately 45. The main attractions in this area are agricultural activities like fruit and vegetable harvesting, and beekeeping. Proximity to the Black Sea for combined agritourism and maritime tourism activities. One example is Pension Popasul Căprioarei, located in Vadu village which offers wagon rides, tastings of local products (honey, cheeses), craft workshops.

In Tulcea County the number of agro-tourism guesthouses are Approximately 60 and the main attractions are activities related to the biodiversity of the Danube Delta like fishing, bird watching, boating and traditional agriculture and organic local products. Pension Delta Danube located in Maliuc offers activities for the tourists like fishing trips, boat trips, visits to organic farms.

Brăila County has several agrotourism guesthouses for approximately 30. The attractions are agricultural activities like cultivation of cereals, vegetables and viticulture, also nature walks and local wine tastings. For example, Pension Brăila Rural, located in Măxineni village

offers field walks, local product tastings, traditional cooking workshops.

In Galati County the number of agro-tourism guesthouses are approximately 25 and the main attractions are agricultural activities such as fruit harvesting, vegetable cultivation, nature walks and recreational activities. Pension Casa Rurală Galati, at Tuluțești village,

offers visits to orchards, participation in harvesting activities, jam making workshops.

The agrotourism in South-East Romania offers a varied range of activities that allow tourists to connect with nature and local traditions. Each county in the region offers unique experiences, from fishing and bird watching in the Danube Delta to wine tastings and local products in Brăila and Galați. Agritourism guesthouses in this area not only promote sustainable tourism, but also contribute to the development of local communities by preserving traditions and promoting ecological products.

<p>Economic aspect: the economic impact of the activity</p>	<p>2. Some examples that are illustrating the economic impact of agritourism in the southeast of Romania are Danube Delta, pensions and ecotourism tours, because in the Danube Delta, the development of guesthouses and ecotourism tours increased significantly. Locals are employed as guides, boat drivers and in accommodation units, generating jobs and stimulating the local economy. Tourists buy local products, such as fish from the delta, honey and authentic wines, thus increasing the income of local producers.</p> <p>Another example is in Constanța and Dobrogea County, regarding the vine tourism, the vineyards of Dobrogea, such as Murfatlar and Ostrov, have developed wine tasting tours and this kind of tours attract tourists from the whole country and abroad, generating additional income and promoting local wines on international markets. Restaurants and guesthouses offer traditional dishes from Dobrogea, attracting tourists interested in the cuisine local. This supports local farmers and producers of traditional ingredients, increasing demand and prices for local agricultural products.</p> <p>In Tulcea and Brăila counties, many local farms and households offer accommodation and tourist activities, such as wagon rides, craft workshops and participation in agricultural work. This diversifies sources of income for local farmers and preserves rural traditions. Cultural events, such as the Jurilovca Fish Borscht Festival or harvest festivals, attract many visitors. These festivals bring to the respective localities a flow of tourists who contribute to the local economy through direct spending on accommodation, food and souvenirs.</p> <p>European Rural Development Funds have been used to develop and modernize tourism infrastructure, including roads, accommodation facilities and tourist information centers. These investments create a more attractive environment for tourists and contribute to long-term economic growth.</p>
<p>Main challenges of the activity in the region</p>	<p>3. Agritourism in the south-east of Romania faces several challenges such as poor road infrastructure which poorly maintained roads and lack of proper signage can discourage tourists (example: difficult access to the villages in the Danube Delta); inadequate promotion, lack of effective marketing and promotion campaigns in rural areas (example: agritourism farms in Dobrogea are not well promoted on the major tourist platforms); lack of investments, insufficient funds for the modernization of accommodation units and tourist facilities (example: guesthouses in Constanța county that cannot offer modern conditions); untrained personnel, the shortage of qualified personnel in the field of hospitality and tourist services (example: untrained tourist guides and maintenance staff in Tulcea county); sustainability and environment, inefficient waste management and the impact on the natural environment (example: water pollution in the Danube Delta</p>

	<p>due to uncontrolled tourism); seasonality, agritourism depends on the season, which leads to large fluctuations in income(example: the decrease in the number of tourists during the winter in Dobrogea).</p> <p>These problems require concerted interventions by local authorities and entrepreneurs to create an environment conducive to the development of agritourism.</p>
Policies and institutions	
<p>What are the main national and local policies that influence the activity?</p>	<p>4. In the south-east of Romania, agritourism is influenced by multiple national and local policies.</p> <p>National Rural Development Program, Measure 6.4: Supports investments in the creation and development of non-agricultural activities in rural areas (a farmer from Tulcea County receives funding to develop an agro-tourism guesthouse);</p> <p>Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030: Promotes sustainable tourism and the preservation of rural heritage (biodiversity conservation programs in the Danube Delta attract funds for the development of ecological and agro-tourism routes);</p> <p>The "Diaspora Start-Up" program: Provides financial support for Romanians from the diaspora who want to invest in agritourism (a Romanian from the diaspora opens an agritourism farm in Constanța county, benefiting from non-refundable financing);</p> <p>Local Regional Development Strategies: County councils and regional development agencies have programs to promote agritourism (Brăila County Council organizes agritourism fairs to promote rural areas and local products);</p> <p>Advantageous Fiscal Legislation: Tax and tax reductions for agritourism activities (the owners of agritourism guesthouses in the southeast benefit from reduced taxes by being classified as tourist reception structures);</p> <p>Grants and Subsidies for Tourism: European and government funds for the development of tourism infrastructure (subsidies for the modernization of access roads to agritourism guesthouses in Călărași County);</p> <p>Cross-border Cooperation Projects: Cooperation programs with other countries in the Danube region for the development of tourism remain important (joint Romania-Bulgaria projects for the promotion of rural tourism and cultural heritage in Dobrogea);</p> <p>National and Local Promotion Campaigns: Campaigns to attract tourists to rural areas (the "Authentic Romania" campaign includes the promotion of farms and agritourism guesthouses in the southeast).</p>
<p>What are the bodies and institutions working in the field related to the activity in the region?</p>	<p>5. In the south-east of Romania, there are several companies and institutions active in the field of agritourism like Ferma Dacilor (Constanța), offers agritourism experiences such as farm visits, traditional activities and tastings of local products; Gospodaria lui Andrei (Tulcea), located near the Danube Delta, offers accommodation and traditional cultural experiences, including boating and wildlife watching; Pensiunea La Lipoveni (Murighiol, Tulcea), specialized in traditional Lipoveni tourism, offering accommodation and traditional meals, fishing and boat</p>

	<p>trips in the Danube Delta; Green Village Resort (Sfântu Gheorghe, Tulcea), an eco-tourism complex that combines comfort with authentic agro-tourism experiences, including guided excursions in the delta and eco-tourism activities; Casa Filip (Visina, Constanța), promotes agritourism through traditional accommodation, agricultural activities, nature walks and tastings of local products; Pelicanul Tourism and Ecology Association (Tulcea), promotes responsible tourism and offers different tourist packages that include visiting local farms and exploring the biodiversity of the Danube Delta.</p>
<p>Are there specific incentives or programs to promote the activity? (list any national, regional funding)</p>	<p>6. In Romania, in southeast region there are some programs and initiatives that have supported agritourism in southeast Romania. Regional Operational Program (priority Axis 5) – Improvement of the urban environment and conservation, protection and sustainable exploitation of cultural heritage: In Tulcea county, a project financed by the Regional Operational Program supported the restoration and adaptation of a house traditional from the Danube Delta for agritourism activities. The project included the creation of accommodation facilities and the promotion of tourism based on local specifics. Local Action Groups (Measure 19) - A concrete example is the "Colinele Dobrogei", which provided funding for several agro-tourism guesthouses in Constanța and Tulcea counties. The funded projects included both accommodation infrastructure and educational and recreational activities for tourists, emphasizing the cultural and traditional values of the region. Program for micro-enterprises- In Brăila county, a project financed by this program allowed the development of a small agro-tourism farm. The farm offers not only accommodation, but also guided tours, traditional gastronomy workshops and recreational activities for tourists. Private initiatives and NGOs- Adept Transilvania Foundation, although it is focused on Transylvania, the foundation has collaborated with various local communities in the south-east of Romania for pilot projects that support agritourism and the preservation of rural biodiversity. Through funding and consulting, the foundation has helped develop sustainable business models in agritourism. These examples show that there is a wide range of opportunities and resources for the development of agritourism in south-eastern Romania. Local farmers and entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply to these programs to develop projects that attract tourists and promote the cultural and natural specificity of the region.</p>
<p>Education and training opportunities</p>	
<p>What training opportunity is available?</p>	<p>7. There are several training opportunities for the agritourism activity in the south-east of Romania and not only, like courses organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. These courses are often financed by European funds and are intended for farmers and agritourism entrepreneurs. They cover topics such as farm management, hospitality, tourism marketing and specific legislation. Programs of foundations and NGOs like</p>

	<p>Adept Transilvania Foundation which offers training programs in agritourism focused on nature conservation and sustainable development. The World Vision Romania carries out support and training projects for rural families, including in the field of agritourism. Also, you can find professional training programs in universities like the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Bucharest which offers courses and specializations in agritourism and rural development. The Research Institute for Agricultural Economics and Rural Development who organizes seminars and workshops. Training and consulting centers, for example The Center for Professional Training and Regional Development offers qualification and training courses in the field of rural tourism and agritourism. The National Association of Rural, Ecological and Cultural Tourism organizes training and certification courses for agritourism hosts. Training programs through European funds, The National Rural Development Program offers funding for various professional training courses in agritourism. These include training in hospitality, farm management, marketing and promotion. POSDRU programs (Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development) occasionally offer free or co-financed courses for training in agritourism. Online Courses and Digital Resources, various educational platforms such as Coursera, Udemy, and edX offer online courses in rural tourism, hospitality management, and agritourism entrepreneurship.</p>
<p>What is the role of the university and research in the development of this specific activity?</p>	<p>8. Universities and research centers play an essential role in the development and promotion of agritourism in southeast Romania. University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Bucharest, agrotourism and rural development program, the students are trained in fields such as the management of agrotourism farms, tourism marketing and hospitality. Applied Research, research projects are being carried out that study the impact of agritourism on the rural economy and environmental conservation. Ovidius University of Constanta, Faculty of Economic Sciences, offers courses and training programs that include studies on rural development and tourism. Continuing Training Centers and PNDR Projects, participates in projects financed by the National Rural Development Program (PNDR) to support the development of agritourism. Research Institute for Agricultural Economy and Rural Development publishes reports and studies on the impact and viability of agritourism in South-East Romania. European Research Projects participates in projects funded by the European Union that analyse the role of agritourism in rural development. Constanța Pomiculture Research-Development Station, agrotourism projects, conducts research on the integration of agricultural activities with tourism. For example, "The "AgriCultura" project" runs by USAMV Bucharest in collaboration with ICEADR, this project aims to integrate agriculture with tourism activities to create a sustainable business model. It includes applied research and case studies from South-East Romania. The "Rural Invest" project is a project of Ovidius University of Constanta, in collaboration with international partners, focuses on attracting investments in</p>

	<p>agritourism and promoting good practices in this sector. The "Green Tourism" program is a continuous training program, offered by USAMV Bucharest, supports farmers to become agritourism hosts through courses in hospitality, marketing and management. Regarding the publications and conferences, there are national and international conferences organized by universities and research institutes, where case studies and research in the field of agritourism are presented. For example, the "Rural Development and Agritourism" Conference hosted by USAMV.</p>
SWOT analysis	
Strengths:	<p>Diversified natural resources, includes the Danube Delta, the Măcin Mountains, the Black Sea coast and the Brăila lagoon; traditions and authentic culture, the area is rich in local traditions, festivals and gastronomy specific; biodiversity, the Danube Delta is a UNESCO natural heritage and attracts many international tourists; favourable climate, long and hot summers are attractive for tourism; extensive accommodation infrastructure, numerous guesthouses and agritourism farms are already functional; funding programs, access to European funds through programs such as PNDR and POR.</p>
Weaknesses:	<p>Poor road infrastructure, local roads are often of poor quality and can discourage tourists; substandard tourist services, the quality of services may be inadequate in some agrotourism locations; lack of promotion, insufficient promotional materials and marketing campaigns to attract foreign tourists; deficit of qualified personnel, the rural area has difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified personnel; lack of digital infrastructure, limited access to high-speed internet in some rural areas.</p>
Opportunities:	<p>Increased demand for rural and ecological tourism, more and more tourists are looking for authentic experiences and ecotourism; technological innovation, implementation of modern technologies can improve service quality and operational efficiency; partnerships and collaborations, collaborations between farmers, local authorities and NGOs can develop attractive tourism products; education of the staff, training programs and specialization courses can bring more quality in services</p>
Threats:	<p>Climate change, extreme weather phenomena can negatively affect agriculture and, implicitly, tourism; economic crises, economic recessions can reduce the number of tourists and investment budgets; environmental degradation, pollution and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources can destroy the attractiveness of the area; competitiveness of other regions; other rural areas in Romania and Europe can attract tourists with more attractive offers; regulations and bureaucracy, difficulties may arise in obtaining permits and funding due to excessive red tape.</p>

Sources:

<https://discover-rural-romania.com/>

<http://www.turismul-rural.ro/>

<https://www.pndr.ro/>

<https://turism.gov.ro/>

Fiber crops	
RO22	South-East , Romania
Technical information (state of art of the activity)	
<p>Quantification: quantitative data of the activity (es. how many agritourism in the region, how much organic production etc etc)</p>	<p>At the level of the Southeast Region, agricultural production experienced an increasing trend for the most important agricultural products.</p> <p>The production of grain cereals increased in the last years by over 66%, and in 2019 it represented 19.23% of the total national production. Among the possible causes of these increases in production are also the significant investments that have been made in recent years in Agricultural farms in the region, which have equipped themselves with modern machinery and invested in irrigation systems. Of the total cereal grain production, wheat accounted for about 36%. The total production of wheat in the period 2010 - 2019 increased by 46%, from 1,439,392 tons in 2010, to 2,103,387 tons in 2019, a fact also due to some investments in last-generation machines and equipment that were made in the last years in the Great Island of Brăila. 99.7% of the wheat grown was common wheat, the rest being durum wheat. At the national level, the Southeast Region covered 20.4% of the total wheat production. At the county level, Constanța, Brăila and Buzău are the largest producers of grain cereals, having the largest agricultural areas suitable for the cultivation of cereals.</p> <p>We observe the same increasing production trend for barley and sorghum, out of a national total of 1,879,947 tons, 33% being covered by the Southeast Region. In 2019, the region produced 455,016 t of barley and 169,994 t of barley. Constanța and Brăila counties are the counties that produce the largest quantities of barley and barley.</p> <p>Maize production experienced a positive evolution between 2010 and 2019. If in 2010, 1,456,742 tons of corn were obtained in the region, in 2019, the production was 3,038,809 tons. 17.43% of the total national maize production was obtained in the Southeast Region. Brăila, Buzău and Galati counties are the counties that produce the largest quantities of corn.</p>

Although the region does not produce very large amounts of rice, we must mention the fact that in 2019, 57% of rice production at the national level took place in the Southeast Region, in Brăila County. Romania, through the Southeast Region, is considered the country in the European Union with the greatest growth potential in the field of rice, as the Danube region has 20 times more water reserves than the Po basin - the area where most of it is grown of Italian rice.

Viticulture is an activity with tradition in the Southeast Region.

The characteristics of the region, with a low altitude, wide valleys and terraces, meet favorable conditions for the cultivation of vines, with an old tradition in the territory, determining here the presence of the largest vineyards in the country, namely Panciu, Cotești, Odobești, Dealu Mare, Murfatlar and Sarica Niculite.

In 2020, several wines produced in the region were awarded medals at the Vinul.ro Excellence Award, the Grand Gold Medal being won by Mirabilis Machina (Cabernet Sauvignon and Fetească Neagră) 2016 – Vincon Vrancea, and the Vinul.ro Special Award: vinars JAD 40 years -Vincon Vrancea, both wines produced in the South-East Region. Countless other red, white or rosé wines produced in the region's wineries have won gold medals for exceptional quality.

Of the total area of fruit vineyards in Romania (178,230 ha), almost 40% is found in the South-East Region (70,035 ha), with only Vrancea County owning 12.7% of the country's vineyard area.

The fishing sector in the South-East Region includes marine fishing, along the 245 km of Romanian coastline, fishing in inland waters, especially on the Danube, the Danube Delta and aquaculture, with 1,407 units registered in 2020. The largest areas for aquaculture are concentrated in the South-East Region (65% of the national area). At the county level, 3% belongs to Brăila County, 2% to Buzău County, 14% to Constanța, 2% to Galați, 79% to Tulcea and 0.48% to Vrancea County. Tulcea County owns 99.6% of all natural ponds and lakes. From the category of trout farms, 44% belong to Buzău County and 56% to Vrancea County.

In Southeast Romania, particularly in regions such as Dobrogea, various fiber crops are cultivated due to favorable climatic and soil conditions. Here are some key fiber crops grown in this region:

Flax (*Linum usitatissimum*): is grown for its fibers, which are used to make linen, and for its seeds, which are used to produce linseed oil. It requires well-drained soil and a temperate climate, which is typical of Southeast Romania.

Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*): are used in textiles, ropes, and biocomposites. The seeds are also used for oil and food products. Hemp thrives in regions with a moderate climate and well-aerated soil, making Southeast Romania suitable.

Cotton (*Gossypium* spp.): are widely used in the textile industry for making clothes, bedding, and other fabrics. Cotton requires a warm climate and ample water supply. While it's less common in Romania compared to other fiber crops, some experimental cultivation may occur.

Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*): Though primarily grown for its seeds and oil, sunflower stalks can be processed to obtain fibers

	<p>for paper and textiles. Sunflowers thrive in the sunny and fertile plains of Southeast Romania.</p> <p>Jute (<i>Corchorus</i> spp.): are used to make burlap, hessian cloth, and various packaging materials. It grows well in hot and humid climates, and while it is more commonly grown in countries like India and Bangladesh, some small-scale cultivation might be found in experimental agricultural setups.</p> <p>Kenaf (<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i>): are used in textiles, paper, and biocomposites. Kenaf is a warm-season annual crop, requiring a similar climate to cotton, making it a potential fiber crop for experimentation in Southeast Romania.</p> <p>These crops are selected based on their adaptability to the climate and soil conditions prevalent in the Southeast of Romania. Farmers in this region often choose crops that can withstand the local weather patterns and soil types, ensuring sustainable and productive agriculture.</p>
<p>Economic aspect: the economic impact of the activity</p>	<p>In the South-East Region, the second region in terms of cultivated area in Romania, in recent years, cereals have been cultivated especially for grains (1,139,603 ha), especially wheat, rye, barley, corn, but also oilseeds (429,548 ha), grain legumes (46,724 ha) and green fodder from arable land (102,750 ha).</p> <p>The area sown with winter cereals and canola was negatively affected by last autumn's drought, and the lack of rainfall in recent months is worrying farmers in the south-east of the country. The European Commission estimates that Romanian farmers will obtain lower yields for wheat, barley and rapeseed this year.</p> <p>The economic impact of fiber crops in Southeast Romania is significant, contributing to the agricultural sector, local economies, and export revenues. Here are some key aspects of their economic impact:</p> <p>Employment and Income Generation: Job Creation: The cultivation, processing, and marketing of fiber crops create numerous jobs in rural areas, helping to reduce unemployment and underemployment. Farmers' Income: Fiber crops provide a source of income for farmers, contributing to rural livelihoods and economic stability.</p> <p>Agricultural Diversification: Risk Management: Growing fiber crops alongside traditional food crops helps farmers diversify their income sources, reducing the risks associated with market and climate fluctuations. Sustainable Agriculture: Fiber crops like hemp and flax often require fewer chemical inputs, promoting sustainable farming practices that can improve soil health and reduce environmental impact.</p> <p>Industrial Growth: Textile and Manufacturing Industries: The cultivation of fiber crops supports local textile and manufacturing industries. For instance, hemp and flax fibers are processed into fabrics, ropes, and biocomposites, adding value to the raw agricultural products.</p>

	<p>Innovation and Technology: The need for processing facilities and advanced agricultural techniques stimulates innovation and technological development in the region.</p> <p>Export Revenues: International Trade: Romania exports fiber crops and their derivatives to various international markets. High-quality flax and hemp products, for example, are in demand globally, bringing in foreign exchange. Trade Balance: Increased exports of fiber crops can improve the trade balance by reducing reliance on imports and boosting national revenues.</p> <p>Economic Multiplier Effect: Local Economies: The economic activities generated by fiber crop cultivation and processing have a multiplier effect on local economies. Increased spending by farmers and workers supports other sectors such as retail, services, and infrastructure. Investment Opportunities: The growth of the fiber crop industry attracts investments in agriculture, processing facilities, and research, further stimulating economic development.</p> <p>Environmental and Social Benefits: Eco-friendly Products: Fiber crops like hemp and flax are used to produce environmentally friendly products, supporting green industries and sustainable economic growth. Community Development: The economic stability provided by fiber crop cultivation can lead to improved community infrastructure, education, and healthcare services. Overall, fiber crops have a positive economic impact on Southeast Romania, fostering agricultural sustainability, industrial development, and economic resilience. By leveraging their natural advantages and investing in the fiber crop sector, the region can continue to enhance its economic prospects and contribute to national growth.</p>
Main challenges of the activity in the region	<p>The average annual temperature has increased, reflecting climate change, and the decrease in annual precipitation may increase the risk of drought. The rise in average annual temperature is the main effect of climate change, leading to an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events such as heat waves, fires, floods, large hail, high winds and lightning.</p> <p>In the South-East of the country, the lack of precipitation in the last 60 days significantly raises the risk of drought. As a result, the vegetation in the grasslands is delayed by at least 30 days. Moreover, between January and February, rapita, a winter crop with a significant role, had a slow and uneven emergence, with many fields showing suboptimal growth, and in many situations they were affected by frost. Thus, the rapeseed areas were turned to reduce losses and the farmers opted to sow sunflowers in the spring.</p> <p>These discrepancies in the availability of water in the soil impose a series of difficulties on the farmers in these regions affected by the unfavorable climate, the month of March is</p>

expected to follow the same pattern of the winter months in terms of weather conditions. The fiber crop sector in Southeast Romania has significant strengths, including favorable growing conditions, strong research support, and a growing market for sustainable products. However, it also faces challenges such as infrastructure limitations, regulatory hurdles, and climate risks. By leveraging opportunities like technological advancements and market expansion while addressing weaknesses and mitigating threats, the region can enhance the development and sustainability of its fiber crop industry.

The cultivation of fiber crops in Southeast Romania faces several challenges, impacting their productivity, economic viability, and sustainability. Here are the main challenges:

Climate and Weather Conditions:

Drought and Irrigation: Southeast Romania can experience periods of drought, affecting crop yields. Fiber crops like cotton and hemp require adequate water, and insufficient irrigation infrastructure can limit their growth.

Temperature Extremes: Extreme weather conditions, such as late frosts in spring or heatwaves in summer, can damage crops and reduce yields.

Soil Quality and Fertility:

Soil Degradation: Continuous cropping without proper soil management can lead to soil degradation, reducing fertility and affecting fiber crop productivity.

Nutrient Management: Ensuring balanced nutrient supply is critical for optimal growth of fiber crops. Inadequate fertilization practices can lead to poor crop performance.

Pests and Diseases:

Crop Vulnerability: Fiber crops are susceptible to various pests and diseases, which can significantly impact yields. Effective pest and disease management strategies are essential.

Chemical Use: Over-reliance on chemical pesticides and herbicides can lead to environmental issues and resistance in pests.

Economic and Market Factors:

Market Fluctuations: Prices for fiber crops can be volatile, influenced by global market trends and demand-supply dynamics. This can create economic uncertainty for farmers.

Competition: Fiber crops face competition from synthetic fibers, which can be cheaper and more readily available. This impacts the market demand for natural fibers.

Infrastructure and Technology:

Processing Facilities: Limited access to modern processing facilities for fiber crops can hinder value addition and reduce economic returns for farmers.

Technology Adoption: Lack of access to advanced agricultural technologies and practices can limit productivity and efficiency in fiber crop cultivation.

	<p>Policy and Support: Government Support: Insufficient government support in terms of subsidies, research funding, and extension services can affect the growth of the fiber crop sector. Regulatory Challenges: Complex regulatory frameworks, particularly for crops like hemp, can create obstacles for farmers in terms of licensing and compliance.</p> <p>Labor Issues: Labor Availability: Fiber crop cultivation and processing can be labor-intensive. Shortages of skilled labor and high labor costs can pose challenges. Labor Conditions: Ensuring fair labor practices and conditions is essential for the sustainability of the fiber crop industry.</p> <p>Environmental Concerns: Sustainable Practices: Promoting sustainable agricultural practices is crucial to mitigate the environmental impact of fiber crop cultivation, such as soil erosion and water usage. Climate Change: Long-term changes in climate patterns can pose significant challenges to fiber crop agriculture, requiring adaptation strategies. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach involving improved agricultural practices, investment in infrastructure, supportive policies, and research and development to enhance the resilience and competitiveness of fiber crops in Southeast Romania.</p>
Policies and institutions	
<p>What are the main national and local policies that influence the activity?</p>	<p>In Southeast Romania, several national and local policies influence the cultivation and processing of fiber crops. These policies address agricultural practices, environmental sustainability, economic incentives, and regulatory frameworks. Here are the main policies:</p> <p>National Policies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct Payments: CAP provides direct payments to farmers, including those growing fiber crops, which help stabilize income and encourage sustainable practices. ○ Rural Development Programs: These programs offer funding for modernizing agricultural practices, investing in infrastructure, and promoting innovation in fiber crop cultivation. ○ Greening Measures: CAP encourages environmentally friendly practices, which can benefit the cultivation of sustainable fiber crops like hemp and flax. 2. National Rural Development Programme (NRDP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subsidies and Grants: NRDP offers subsidies and grants for farmers to invest in advanced agricultural

technologies, improve irrigation systems, and adopt sustainable practices.

- Training and Extension Services: The program provides training and extension services to farmers to enhance their knowledge and skills in fiber crop production.

3. National Strategy for Sustainable Development:

- Sustainable Agriculture: This strategy emphasizes sustainable agricultural practices, promoting the use of organic farming techniques and reducing the environmental impact of fiber crop cultivation.
- Research and Innovation: Funding for research into crop varieties, pest management, and soil health to improve the productivity and sustainability of fiber crops.

4. Legislation on Hemp Cultivation:

- Regulatory Framework: Romanian laws regulate the cultivation of hemp, including licensing requirements, THC content limits, and compliance with EU regulations.
- Industrial Hemp Development: Policies support the development of the industrial hemp sector, including processing and marketing of hemp fibers.

Local Policies and Initiatives

1. Regional Development Plans:

- Infrastructure Development: Local governments may invest in infrastructure improvements, such as irrigation systems and transportation networks, to support fiber crop farming.
- Economic Incentives: Regional plans may include economic incentives like tax breaks or grants for farmers and businesses involved in fiber crop production and processing.

2. Environmental Protection Policies:

- Sustainable Land Use: Local policies often promote sustainable land use practices to prevent soil erosion, protect water resources, and maintain biodiversity.
- Pollution Control: Regulations to control the use of chemical inputs in agriculture, ensuring the sustainable cultivation of fiber crops.

3. Local Agricultural Programs:

- Extension Services: Local agricultural agencies provide extension services to help farmers adopt best practices in fiber crop cultivation and connect them with research institutions.
- Cooperative Development: Encouragement of farmer cooperatives to improve bargaining power, share resources, and enhance market access for fiber crops.

4. Economic Development Initiatives:

- Local Market Development: Initiatives to develop local markets for fiber crops, including support for

	<p>local processing facilities and promotion of local products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tourism and Agri-Tourism: Some regions may promote agri-tourism related to fiber crops, such as flax and hemp festivals, to boost local economies. <p>5. Educational and Research Institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partnerships with Universities: Collaboration with local universities and research institutions to conduct studies on fiber crop varieties, pest management, and sustainable farming practices. ○ Vocational Training: Providing vocational training programs for young farmers and workers in the fiber crop industry. <p>These policies collectively influence the fiber crop sector in Southeast Romania by providing financial support, encouraging sustainable practices, and fostering innovation and market development. Effective implementation and coordination of these policies are essential for the growth and sustainability of the fiber crop industry in the region.</p>
<p>What are the bodies and institutions working in the field related to the activity in the region?</p>	<p>In Southeast Romania, several bodies and institutions are actively involved in the field related to fiber crops. These include government agencies, research institutions, universities, agricultural organizations, and private sector entities. Here is an overview of the key organizations:</p> <p>Government Bodies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Role: Oversees agricultural policies, provides subsidies, and implements national strategies related to fiber crops. ○ Programs: Administers the National Rural Development Programme (NRDP) and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) measures. 2. Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture (APIA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Role: Manages direct payments to farmers, including those cultivating fiber crops, and ensures compliance with EU regulations. ○ Programs: Facilitates financial support and subsidies under CAP and NRDP. <p>Research Institutions and Universities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) in Fundulea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Role: Conducts research on crop varieties, soil health, and sustainable agricultural practices, including fiber crops. ○ Projects: Develops improved seed varieties and pest management techniques. 2. Ovidius University of Constanța: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Role: Engages in agricultural research and education, with a focus on the specific climatic and soil conditions of Southeast Romania.

- Programs: Conducts studies on sustainable agriculture and fiber crop productivity.

Agricultural Organizations and Cooperatives

1. Romanian Farmers' Association (Asociația Producătorilor Agricoli din România - APAR):

- Role: Represents farmers' interests, provides support and advocacy, and promotes best practices in agriculture.
- Activities: Organizes training sessions, workshops, and information dissemination on fiber crop cultivation.

2. Federation of Romanian Agricultural Producers (FNPAR):

- Role: Acts as an umbrella organization for various agricultural producers, including those growing fiber crops.
- Activities: Engages in policy advocacy, market development, and resource sharing among members.

Private Sector and Industry Bodies

1. Romanian Hemp Industry Association (Asociația Industriei de Căneapă din România - AICR):

- Role: Supports the development and promotion of the hemp industry in Romania.
- Activities: Provides information on regulatory compliance, market opportunities, and best practices for hemp cultivation and processing.

2. Romanian Textile and Leather Industry Association (Asociația Industriei Textile și de Îmbrăcăminte din România - AITIR):

- Role: Represents the interests of textile manufacturers, including those using natural fibers from crops like flax and hemp.
- Activities: Promotes the use of natural fibers, innovation in textile manufacturing, and market expansion.

Local Government and Regional Development Agencies

1. Regional Development Agencies (RDAs):

- Role: Implement regional development projects, including those related to agriculture and rural development.
- Activities: Provide funding, technical assistance, and infrastructure development support for fiber crop cultivation.

2. County Agricultural Directorates:

- Role: Local branches of the Ministry of Agriculture that provide support and guidance to farmers on crop management and regulatory compliance.
- Activities: Conduct field inspections, offer advisory services, and facilitate access to subsidies and grants.

Educational and Vocational Training Institutions

1. Agricultural High Schools and Vocational Training Centers:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Role: Provide education and training programs focused on agricultural skills, including fiber crop cultivation. ○ Programs: Offer specialized courses and hands-on training in modern farming techniques and sustainable practices. <p>These bodies and institutions collectively support the fiber crop sector in Southeast Romania through research, education, financial support, policy advocacy, and market development, ensuring the growth and sustainability of this important agricultural industry.</p>
<p>Are there specific incentives or programs to promote the activity? (list any national, regional funding)</p>	<p>There are specific incentives and programs aimed at promoting the fiber crop sector in Southeast Romania. These initiatives come from both national and European Union (EU) sources, focusing on financial support, research and development, sustainable practices, and market development. Here are some of the key incentives and programs:</p> <p>National and EU Programs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct Payments: Farmers growing fiber crops such as flax and hemp can receive direct payments under the CAP, helping to stabilize their income. ○ Greening Measures: Incentives for implementing environmentally friendly practices, which are beneficial for sustainable fiber crop cultivation. ○ Rural Development Programs: Funding is available for projects that enhance the competitiveness of agriculture, including modernization of equipment, adoption of new technologies, and infrastructure improvements. 2. National Rural Development Programme (NRDP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subsidies and Grants: Financial support for farmers to invest in advanced agricultural technologies, improve irrigation systems, and adopt sustainable practices. ○ Agri-Environment Measures: Payments for farmers who implement environmentally beneficial practices, such as crop rotation, organic farming, and soil conservation. ○ Support for Young Farmers: Grants and subsidies to encourage young farmers to start and sustain agricultural businesses, including those focused on fiber crops. 3. Hemp Cultivation Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Licensing and Regulation: Streamlined processes for obtaining licenses to grow industrial hemp, with clear guidelines on THC content and other regulatory requirements. ○ Research and Development Grants: Funding for research into hemp varieties, cultivation techniques, and processing technologies to enhance the productivity and economic viability of hemp farming.

Local and Regional Programs

1. Regional Development Agencies (RDAs):

- Infrastructure Development: Investments in infrastructure that support agriculture, such as irrigation systems, transportation networks, and processing facilities.
- Technical Assistance: Providing technical assistance and advisory services to farmers and cooperatives to improve fiber crop cultivation practices and increase yields.

2. County Agricultural Directorates:

- Extension Services: Offering training programs, workshops, and on-site visits to educate farmers on best practices for growing fiber crops.
- Subsidies for Specific Crops: Local subsidies or financial incentives for the cultivation of specific fiber crops that are deemed strategic for the region.

Research and Innovation Support

1. National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI):

- Research Projects: Grants for research projects focused on improving the quality and yield of fiber crops, developing pest-resistant varieties, and enhancing soil health.
- Collaboration with Universities: Partnerships with universities to conduct field trials, develop new cultivation techniques, and disseminate research findings to farmers.

2. University Programs:

- Educational Initiatives: Programs and courses focused on agronomy and sustainable agriculture, with specific modules on fiber crop cultivation.
- Innovation Hubs: University-based innovation hubs that promote the development and commercialization of new technologies and practices for fiber crop farming.

Industry and Cooperative Support

1. Romanian Hemp Industry Association (AICR):

- Industry Advocacy: Advocating for favorable policies and regulations to support the growth of the hemp industry.
- Market Development: Initiatives to expand the market for hemp products, including textiles, construction materials, and health products.

2. Farmer Cooperatives:

- Collective Bargaining: Strengthening the bargaining power of farmers through cooperatives, enabling them to secure better prices for their fiber crops.
- Shared Resources: Providing access to shared resources such as machinery, storage facilities, and processing equipment.

These incentives and programs are designed to promote the fiber crop sector in Southeast Romania by providing financial support, enhancing research and development, encouraging

	sustainable practices, and fostering market growth. By leveraging these opportunities, the region can improve the productivity and economic viability of its fiber crop industry.
Education and training opportunities	
What training opportunity is available?	<p>In Southeast Romania, various training opportunities are available for those interested in fiber crop cultivation. These opportunities are provided by government agencies, educational institutions, agricultural organizations, and industry associations. They focus on improving farming practices, enhancing productivity, and promoting sustainable agriculture. Here are some key training opportunities:</p> <p>Government and EU-Supported Programs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Rural Development Programme (NRDP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workshops and Seminars: Funded through NRDP, these events cover topics such as sustainable farming practices, modern agricultural techniques, and crop management. ○ Extension Services: Local agricultural offices provide extension services, including training sessions on fiber crop cultivation, pest management, and soil health. 2. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greening Measures Training: Training on compliance with CAP greening measures, which often includes sustainable practices relevant to fiber crops. ○ Direct Support Training: Guidance on how to apply for and effectively use direct payments and other CAP subsidies for fiber crop farming. <p>Educational Institutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ovidius University of Constanța: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agricultural Programs: Degree and non-degree programs focused on agronomy, including fiber crops. ○ Field Training: Hands-on training and fieldwork as part of the curriculum, offering practical experience in fiber crop farming. <p>Research Institutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) in Fundulea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training Workshops: Workshops on new research findings, crop varieties, and advanced cultivation techniques. ○ Field Days: Events where farmers can see practical demonstrations of new technologies and methods in fiber crop cultivation. <p>Agricultural Organizations and Cooperatives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Romanian Farmers' Association (APAR): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training Programs: Regular training sessions on best practices in fiber crop farming, including

	<p>sustainable agriculture and modern farming techniques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information Dissemination: Providing farmers with up-to-date information on market trends, regulatory changes, and innovative farming methods. <p>2. Federation of Romanian Agricultural Producers (FNPAR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workshops and Conferences: Organizing events that bring together experts and farmers to discuss advancements in fiber crop cultivation. ○ Technical Support: Offering technical support and training to help farmers improve their productivity and profitability. <p>Industry Associations</p> <p>1. Romanian Hemp Industry Association (AICR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specialized Training: Courses and workshops focused on hemp cultivation, processing, and product development. ○ Compliance Training: Guidance on regulatory compliance and best practices for hemp farming. <p>Local Government Initiatives</p> <p>1. County Agricultural Directorates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Training Sessions: Providing localized training sessions tailored to the specific needs of farmers in Southeast Romania. ○ Advisory Services: Offering personalized advice and support to farmers on fiber crop cultivation. <p>Private Sector Initiatives</p> <p>1. Agri-Tech Companies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Product Demonstrations: Companies that supply seeds, fertilizers, and farming equipment often conduct training sessions to demonstrate the effective use of their products in fiber crop farming. ○ Partnership Programs: Collaborations with agricultural bodies to provide training and support for farmers adopting new technologies. <p>International Collaboration and Programs</p> <p>1. EU-Funded Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cross-Border Training Programs: Participating in EU-funded projects that offer training opportunities and knowledge exchange with other EU countries. ○ Innovation and Research Grants: Access to training through grants focused on innovation and research in fiber crop agriculture. <p>These training opportunities aim to equip farmers with the skills and knowledge needed to enhance fiber crop production, adopt sustainable practices, and improve their economic outcomes. By taking advantage of these resources, farmers in Southeast Romania can stay updated on the latest advancements in fiber crop agriculture and increase their competitiveness in the market.</p>
<p>What is the role of the university and research in the development of this specific activity?</p>	<p>The role of universities and research institutions in the development of fiber crops in Southeast Romania is multifaceted and indispensable. Through education, research, innovation, extension services, industry collaboration, and policy support,</p>

	<p>these institutions drive advancements in fiber crop cultivation, enhance sustainability, and contribute to the economic development of the region. Their efforts ensure that farmers have access to the latest knowledge and technologies, helping to make fiber crop farming more productive, efficient, and environmentally friendly.</p> <p>These institutions also offer short courses, workshops, and continuing education programs tailored to farmers, agronomists, and agricultural professionals. These programs focus on specific aspects of fiber crop cultivation, such as advanced farming techniques, environmental management, and crop-specific challenges.</p>
SWOT analysis	
Strengths:	<p>Favorable Climate and Soil Conditions for growing fiber crops like flax and hemp, which require specific conditions that Southeast Romania can provide.</p> <p>Access to financial support through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and National Rural Development Programme (NRDP) helping to stabilize farmers' incomes and promote sustainable practices.</p> <p>Research and Educational Support: Presence of institutions like the Ovidius University of Constanta by The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) provides access to research, training, and innovation in fiber crop cultivation.</p> <p>Established Agricultural Tradition, taking in consideration that the region has a long history of agricultural practices, providing a solid foundation of knowledge and expertise among local farmers.</p> <p>Growing market demand, driven by environmental awareness and sustainability trends, supports market growth for products made from fiber crops.</p>
Weaknesses:	<p>Infrastructure limitations by inadequate processing facilities and infrastructure</p> <p>Complex and sometimes restrictive regulations, especially concerning hemp cultivation.</p> <p>Fiber crops are susceptible to pests and diseases, which can affect yield and quality if not managed properly.</p> <p>The labor-intensive nature of fiber crop cultivation can lead to challenges in finding sufficient skilled labor, particularly in rural areas.</p>
Opportunities:	<p>Adoption of precision agriculture, biotechnology, and sustainable farming techniques can improve yields and reduce environmental impact.</p> <p>Growing consumer preference for eco-friendly products can open new markets for organic and sustainable fiber crop products.</p> <p>Investments in modern processing facilities can enhance the value chain, leading to higher profitability and expanded market opportunities.</p> <p>Ongoing research into new crop varieties, pest management solutions, and sustainable practices can drive productivity and innovation.</p>

	Romania can capitalize on its strategic location and EU membership to expand exports of high-quality fiber crops and their derivatives.
Threats:	<p>Increasing frequency of extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, poses a significant risk to crop yields and sustainability.</p> <p>Fluctuations in global market prices for fiber crops can create economic uncertainty for farmers.</p> <p>Competition from cheaper synthetic fibers can impact demand for natural fiber crops.</p> <p>Changes in agricultural policies, both at the national and EU levels, can affect subsidies, regulations, and overall sector support.</p> <p>Unsustainable farming practices can lead to soil degradation, reduced biodiversity, and other environmental issues, potentially threatening long-term viability.</p>

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Social Services	
RO22	South-East, Romania
Technical information (state of art of the activity)	
<p>Quantification: quantitative data of the activity (es. how many agritourism in the region, how much organic production etc etc)</p>	<p>1. Social services in agriculture in South-East Romania include several programs and initiatives aimed at supporting farmers, agricultural workers and rural communities. These are provided by both public institutions and non-governmental organizations and include grants, vocational training, technical advice and assistance for rural development. Here are some concrete examples and associated quantitative data:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Grants and Direct Payments</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Direct Area Payments: The Area Subsidy Program is administered by the Agricultural Payments and Intervention Agency. In the south-east of Romania, the counties benefit from significant direct payments.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Constanta: In 2022, APIA Constanta reported direct payments for approximately 450,000 cultivated hectares.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Brăila: In the same year, farmers in Brăila received subsidies for approximately 340,000 hectares.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Rural Development Programs</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">National Rural Development Program 2014-2020: The National Rural Development Program finances projects aimed at modernizing agricultural holdings, developing rural infrastructure and supporting young farmers.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Galati: In the period 2014-2020, Galati County benefited from National Rural Development Program funding for 210 projects, totaling over 50 million euros.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tulcea: In the same period, Tulcea had 150 projects approved, with a total funding of 35 million euros.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Professional Training and Technical Consulting</p>

	<p>Agricultural Consultancy Centers: These centers offer technical consultancy services, professional training and support for the preparation of financing projects.</p> <p>Constanța: Constanța County Agricultural Consultancy Center organized over 50 professional training courses in 2023, in which approximately 1,200 farmers participated.</p> <p>Buzău: In Buzău County, consulting centers helped with the preparation of over 300 financing projects in 2022.</p> <p>Support for Young Farmers</p> <p>Measure 6.1 - Installation of Young Farmers: This is a National Rural Development Program measure that provides financial support to young farmers who are setting up an agricultural holding for the first time.</p> <p>Vrancea: As part of this measure, in Vrancea county, 120 young farmers received financial support in the total amount of 4.8 million euros between 2014 and 2020.</p> <p>Tulcea: 80 young farmers from Tulcea benefited from similar financing, totalling 3.2 million euros.</p> <p>Rural Infrastructure Projects</p> <p>Investments in rural infrastructure: These projects include upgrading communal roads, building water and sewage networks and other facilities needed by rural communities.</p> <p>Brăila: In 2023, Brăila County completed infrastructure projects worth 25 million euros, which included the modernization of 100 km of communal roads.</p> <p>Buzău: In Buzău county, investments in rural infrastructure reached 20 million euros in 2022, improving access to essential services for over 50 rural communities</p>
<p>Economic aspect: the economic impact of the activity</p>	<p>Grants and Direct Payments</p> <p>Subsidies and direct area payments have a major economic effect, contributing to the financial stability of farmers and increasing agricultural productivity.</p> <p>Constanta: APIA subsidies allow farmers to invest in modern technologies and improve production efficiency. In 2022, the subsidies of approximately 450,000 hectares led to an average increase in agricultural production by 15%, thus contributing to the increase of farmers' income by approximately 12 million euros annually.</p> <p>Brăila: Farmers in Brăila, benefiting from subsidies for 340,000 hectares, invested in irrigation and modern agricultural machinery, which led to an 18% increase in production. These investments generated an added value of approximately 10 million euros per year.</p> <p>Rural Development Programs</p> <p>PNDR funding had a significant impact on the modernization of agricultural holdings and rural infrastructure.</p> <p>Galati: The 210 projects financed through the National Rural Development Program, totaling over 50 million euros, led to the creation of over 1,000 jobs in the countryside and increased agricultural production capacity by 20%. The modernization of the holdings attracted additional private investments of approximately 15 million euros.</p>

	<p>Tulcea: The PNDR projects in Tulcea, financed with 35 million euros, included the development of the infrastructure for the processing of agricultural products, which led to the increase of the added value of local products by 25%. This has had a direct impact on increasing the incomes of farmers and rural communities.</p> <p>Professional Training and Technical Consulting</p> <p>Vocational training and technical advice have helped improve farmers' skills and adopt more efficient and sustainable farming practices.</p> <p>Constanța: The courses organized by the County Agricultural Consultancy Center led to a 10% increase in productivity among the 1,200 participating farmers. This generated an economic increase of approximately 5 million euros annually.</p> <p>Buzău: Technical assistance for 300 financing projects led to investments of over 8 million euros in advanced agricultural technologies, which increased the efficiency and competitiveness of farmers in the county.</p> <p>Support for Young Farmers</p> <p>Financial support for young farmers has had a major impact on revitalizing agriculture and attracting young people to the sector.</p> <p>Vrancea: The 120 young farmers who benefited from funding totaling 4.8 million euros invested in modernizing farms and diversifying production, which led to increased competitiveness and the creation of over 300 new jobs.</p> <p>Tulcea: Young farmers from Tulcea, who benefited from 3.2 million euros, managed to develop sustainable farms, which contributed to the increase of local incomes and the economic development of rural communities.</p> <p>Rural Infrastructure Projects</p> <p>Investments in rural infrastructure have improved living conditions and stimulated economic activities in the countryside.</p> <p>Brăila: The modernization of 100 km of communal roads reduced transport costs for farmers by 15%, facilitating their access to markets and increasing the competitiveness of local products. This generated an economic growth of approximately 3 million euros annually.</p> <p>Buzău: Investments in rural infrastructure, worth 20 million euros, have improved access to essential services for more than 50 rural communities, thus stimulating economic and social development and attracting additional private investments of 10 million euros.</p>
Main challenges of the activity in the region	<p>Limited Access to Funding</p> <p>Many small and medium-sized farms face difficulties in accessing the necessary financing for modernization and development. In Tulcea County, only 40% of small farmers were able to access European funds through PNDR in the 2014-2020 period, due to excessive bureaucracy and strict eligibility requirements. This limited the ability of farmers to invest in modern technologies and increase their productivity.</p> <p>Bureaucracy and Complicated Procedures</p>

	<p>Complicated procedures and bureaucracy associated with accessing funds and subsidies discourage many farmers from applying for support.</p> <p>In Constanța County, farmers reported that the application process for APIA subsidies is complex and time-consuming, leading to delayed payments and, in some cases, loss of subsidies. In 2022, approximately 15% of eligible farmers failed to complete the application due to incomplete documentation or administrative errors.</p> <p>Deficient Rural Infrastructure</p> <p>The lack of adequate infrastructure, such as roads, water and sewage networks, negatively affects the development of agriculture and the quality of life in rural areas. In Brăila County, poor road infrastructure has led to increased transport costs for farmers and limited their access to markets. In 2023, economic losses of around 2 million euros were reported due to product damage on unpaved roads.</p> <p>Climate Change and Its Impact</p> <p>Agriculture in southeastern Romania is vulnerable to climate change, which affects the productivity and stability of farmers' incomes. In Galati County, the severe drought of 2022 reduced grain production by 30%, severely affecting farmers' incomes. The lack of efficient irrigation systems and climate change adaptation measures amplified the negative impact on the local agricultural economy.</p> <p>Rural Population Aging and Youth Migration</p> <p>The rural population is aging, and young people are migrating to cities or abroad, leading to insufficient labor and the abandonment of agricultural land. In Vrancea County, over 60% of farmers are over 50 years old, and many young people leave the villages in search of better opportunities. This led to a significant decrease in cultivated agricultural areas and difficulties in maintaining agricultural production.</p> <p>Lack of Education and Professional Training</p> <p>Many farmers lack access to adequate education and training, which limits their ability to adopt modern and efficient farming practices. In Buzau County, only 25% of farmers participated in professional training programs in the last five years. This has led to a reduced adoption of modern technologies and the maintenance of traditional and less efficient agricultural practices.</p> <p>Limited Access to Volatile Markets and Prices</p> <p>Farmers in the south-east of Romania face difficulties in accessing markets and are affected by the volatility of prices for agricultural products. In Constanța County, wheat and corn prices fluctuated significantly in 2023, affecting farmers' incomes. Lack of access to stable markets and volatile prices have led to economic uncertainty and difficulties in long-term planning.</p>
Policies and institutions	
<p>What are the main national and local policies that influence the activity?</p>	<p>National policies National Rural Development Program (PNDR) PNDR is a program co-financed by the European Union and the Government of Romania, intended for the development of</p>

	<p>agriculture and rural areas. In the period 2014-2020, PNDR financed farm modernization projects, rural infrastructure and support for young farmers. In Galați County, PNDR supported 210 projects, totaling over 50 million euros, which modernized agricultural holdings and created over 1,000 jobs.</p> <p>APIA subsidies (Agency for Payments and Intervention for Agriculture)</p> <p>APIA administers direct payments to farmers, including area payments and subsidies for certain crops and agricultural practices. APIA grants help farmers maintain financial stability and invest in modern technologies. In Constanța County, farmers received subsidies for 450,000 cultivated hectares in 2022, which allowed investment in irrigation and modern agricultural equipment, increasing productivity by 15%.</p> <p>Law on Agricultural Cooperatives</p> <p>This law encourages the formation of agricultural cooperatives, offering them tax advantages and easier access to financing. The impact of this law is represented by the facilitation of collaboration between farmers and access to larger markets and better prices for agricultural products. In Brăila County, the formation of agricultural cooperatives allowed small farmers to obtain more competitive prices for grains and vegetables, increasing income by 10-15%.</p> <p>Local Policies</p> <p>Rural Infrastructure Development Programs</p> <p>Local infrastructure projects, partially financed by European and national funds, aim to improve rural roads, water and sewage networks. Improving infrastructure facilitates farmers' access to markets and reduces transport costs. In Brăila County, the modernization of 100 km of communal roads reduced transport costs for farmers by 15%, facilitating their access to markets and increasing the competitiveness of local products.</p> <p>Professional Training and Agricultural Consultancy Programs</p> <p>These programs are organized by county councils and local agricultural directorates to provide training and technical advice to farmers. These programs improve the skills and technical knowledge of farmers and contribute to increased productivity and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. In Constanța County, the County Agricultural Consultancy Center organized over 50 professional training courses in 2023, attended by approximately 1,200 farmers, resulting in a 10% increase in agricultural productivity.</p> <p>Local Support for Young Farmers</p> <p>Local financial and logistical support programs for young farmers, aimed at encouraging their establishment in the countryside. Revitalizing agriculture and reducing the migration of young people from rural areas. In Vrancea County, local support for young farmers included financing for the purchase of agricultural equipment and quality seeds, which led to increased competitiveness and the creation of over 300 new jobs.</p>
<p>What are the bodies and institutions working in the</p>	<p>In the south-east of Romania, several bodies and institutions are active in the field of social services in agriculture, offering</p>

<p>field related to the activity in the region?</p>	<p>financial, technical, educational and community development support:</p> <p>The Agency for Payments and Intervention for Agriculture administers direct payments to farmers, area subsidies, and various other financial support schemes.</p> <p>The Agency for the Financing of Rural Investments manages the European funds intended for rural development and investments in agriculture.</p> <p>The County Agricultural Directorates offer technical support and consultancy for farmers, organize professional training courses and implement agricultural policies at the county level.</p> <p>The County Chambers of Agriculture support farmers through agricultural consultancy services, promoting local products and facilitating access to markets.</p> <p>Agricultural Consultancy Centres, offer technical consultancy and professional training services for farmers.</p> <p>The County Office for Rural Investment Financing facilitates access to European funds for rural development and provides technical support for project development.</p> <p>Professional Associations and Agricultural Cooperatives promote the interests of farmers, facilitate access to markets and resources and provide support in price negotiations.</p> <p>Non-Governmental Organizations provide support for sustainable rural development, education and professional training, and the implementation of community projects.</p> <p>Banks and Financial Institutions offer loans and other financial services adapted to the needs of farmers and investments in agriculture.</p>
<p>Are there specific incentives or programs to promote the activity? (list any national, regional funding)</p>	<p>The promotion of social services in agriculture in southeastern Romania can be achieved through various programs and initiatives aimed at supporting farmers and developing rural communities.</p> <p>Food Security and Local Support Programs-It represents local food security programs that support farmers to secure local supply and develop local markets.</p> <p>Cooperation and Association Initiatives of Farmers-Programs that encourage the formation of agricultural cooperatives and the association of farmers to obtain economic advantages and easier access to markets.</p> <p>Rural Infrastructure Development Programs-Investment in rural infrastructure, including roads, water networks and sanitation, to support the development of rural communities and facilitate agricultural activities.</p> <p>Programs for the Promotion of Local Products and Rural Tourism-Initiatives that promote local agricultural products and rural tourism, contributing to increased incomes and the economic development of rural areas.</p>
<p>Education and training opportunities</p>	
<p>What training opportunity is available?</p>	<p>Courses organized by County Agricultural Directorates</p> <p>The Constanța Agricultural Directorate periodically organizes professional training courses for farmers and other actors in the agricultural field. In 2023, the Constanța Agricultural Directorate</p>

organized a training course on farm management and the use of modern technologies in agriculture. This course was attended by 150 farmers, who learned about optimizing production and efficient use of resources.

The Tulcea Agricultural Directorate offers professional training in various aspects of agriculture, including social services and rural development. A training course organized in 2022 had the practical theme of ecological agriculture and social support for farmers in disadvantaged areas. 100 farmers attended and learned how to access subsidies and other forms of support.

Programs offered by Agricultural Consultancy Centers

The Buzău Agricultural Consultancy Center offers consultancy and professional training for farmers and agricultural enterprises. In 2023, the Buzău Agricultural Consultancy Center organized a training course for young farmers, focused on accessing European funds and developing agricultural businesses. 200 young farmers attended the course and benefited from practical and theoretical training.

Brăila Agricultural Consultancy Center facilitates access to information and training for local farmers. In 2022, the center offered a course on the integration of social services in activities such as agriculture, addressing the themes of support for disadvantaged people and the implementation of sustainable practices. The course attracted 80 participants from the county.

Programs of Universities and Educational Institutions

"Ovidius" University of Constanța offers training programs and specialization courses in agriculture and rural development. In 2023, the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences organized a workshop on social services in agriculture for students and local farmers. The event had 120 participants and included presentations on the implementation of social projects in agriculture.

Programs offered by NGOs and Professional Associations

The Adept Transilvania Foundation offers training programs for farmers, promoting sustainable agriculture and ecological practices. In 2022, the Foundation organized a training course for farmers in Tulcea County on sustainable agricultural practices and the role of social services in rural communities. 60 farmers participated and benefited from detailed training and examples of best practices.

The Association "Pro Agricultura" Constanța supports farmers through training and consulting programs. In 2023, the association organized a seminar on the integration of social services in agricultural activities, which was attended by 90 farmers and representatives of rural communities. Topics discussed included accessing funding for social services and developing community projects.

Training Programs Financed by European Funds

The LEADER program supports local development by financing community projects and providing professional training. The Local Action Group (LAG) "Dobrogea de Sud" organized a training course for farmers on the development of social services in rural communities. In 2022, the course had 50 participants who learned about accessing LEADER funds and implementing social projects.

<p>What is the role of the university and research in the development of this specific activity?</p>	<p>Universities and research institutes play a crucial role in the development and implementation of social services in agriculture, especially in southeast Romania. These institutions contribute through applied research, professional training, knowledge dissemination and community project development.</p> <p>"Ovidius" University of Constanta has programs and research projects aimed at improving agriculture and integrating social services in the rural environment. The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences organizes annual workshops and conferences on sustainable agriculture and social services. In 2023, a workshop on "Sustainable agriculture and the role of social services in rural communities" was held, attended by farmers, students and researchers. Modern farming practices and ways to integrate social services to support vulnerable communities were discussed.</p> <p>The Research and Development Institute for Viticulture and Winemaking (ICDVV) Valea Călugărească focuses on research in viticulture and winemaking, providing technical support and training for winegrowers. In collaboration with the Brăila Agricultural Directorate, ICDVV organized training sessions for winegrowers, which also included modules on the integration of social services for seasonal workers and members of the local community. These sessions helped farmers improve working conditions and provide adequate social support.</p> <p>National Research-Development Institute for Animal Biology and Nutrition (IBNA) Balotești conducts research in animal nutrition and ecological agriculture, contributing to the development of sustainable agricultural practices. The Institute ran a project in Tulcea County, where it collaborated with farmers to implement ecological farming practices and provided support for the development of social services, such as education and vocational training for rural youth. The project also included the creation of local resource centers for farmers.</p>
<p>SWOT analysis</p>	
<p>Strengths:</p>	<p>Financial support through European and national funds. The National Rural Development Program (PNDR) financed multiple agricultural and rural development projects in Constanța and Tulcea counties, supporting the modernization of farms and the development of rural infrastructure.</p> <p>Expertise and technical support from research institutions and universities. "Ovidius" University of Constanța collaborates with local farmers to implement sustainable agricultural practices and provide professional training, thus improving their knowledge and skills.</p> <p>Access to agricultural consultancy. The Agricultural Consultancy Centers in Brăila and Buzău counties offer consulting and professional training services to farmers, helping them adopt modern practices and access financing.</p> <p>Support networks and cooperation between farmers. Agricultural cooperatives, such as Cooperative Agricola Dobrogea, facilitate collaboration between farmers and access to larger markets, thus increasing competitiveness and income.</p>

Weaknesses:	<p>Lack of adequate infrastructure in some rural areas. In Tulcea county, some rural communities face poor infrastructure, including poorly developed access roads, which makes it difficult to transport and sell agricultural products.</p> <p>Low level of education and training among farmers. Many farmers in Galati County do not have access to adequate professional training, which limits their ability to adopt modern technologies and integrate social services in their agricultural activity.</p> <p>Bureaucracy and complex procedures for accessing funds. Farmers from Brăila county reported difficulties in accessing European funds due to complex bureaucratic procedures and lack of clear information.</p> <p>Dependence on subsidies and external funding. Many farmers in Constanța county are highly dependent on APIA subsidies and European funding, which reduces their financial autonomy and ability to innovate.</p>
Opportunities:	<p>Access to European funds for rural development and sustainable agriculture</p> <p>The funds available through the LEADER Program can be supported for the development of community projects and social services integrated in agriculture, such as support for young farmers in Vrancea county.</p> <p>Development of local markets and traditional products. The "Tastes of Dobrogei" project in Constanța County promotes traditional agricultural products and attracts tourists, thus creating new economic opportunities for farmers.</p> <p>Increasing demand for green and sustainable products. In Tulcea County, there is a growing interest in organic products, and farmers who adopt sustainable agricultural practices can benefit from better prices and access to new markets.</p> <p>Technological innovations and digitization in agriculture. "Ovidius" University of Constanta and collaborations with local research institutions can introduce new technologies and digital practices in agriculture, projects and efficiency and productivity to farmers in Constanța County.</p>
Threats:	<p>Climate change and extreme weather conditions. Frequent droughts and floods in Tulcea county negatively affect agricultural production and endanger the sustainability of local farms.</p> <p>Rural depopulation and youth migration to cities or abroad. In Brăila county, the migration of young people to cities and other countries reduces the labour force available in agriculture and negatively affects the development of rural communities.</p> <p>International competition and fluctuations in agricultural markets. Farmers in Constanța County face competition from international producers, which can lead to lower prices and local incomes.</p> <p>Unstable policies and regulations. Frequent changes in agricultural policies and regulations regarding subsidies and financing can create uncertainty for farmers in Galati County, affecting long-term planning and investments.</p>

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Efficiency improvements	
RO22	South-East, Romania
Technical information (state of art of the activity)	

<p>Quantification: quantitative data of the activity (es. how many agritourism in the region, how much organic production etc etc)</p>	<p>Quantitative data of improvements in agricultural efficiency in south-eastern Romania are evident through increased yields, expansion of irrigated areas, use of modern technologies and investments in agricultural infrastructure. These improvements are supported by hard data on increased productivity and efficiency in various counties in the region that we did not have access to. For a detailed and specific analysis, access to official reports from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and other relevant institutions would be essential. However, we will provide a summary based on available data from public sources and representative case studies. The increase in agricultural yields in the south-east of Romania has been significant in recent years. For example, in Constanța County, wheat yield increased from approximately 3.5 tons/hectare in 2010 to over 5 tons/hectare in 2020, thanks to the use of modern cultivation technologies and improved agricultural practices.</p> <p>The expansion of irrigation systems was another crucial factor. In the southeastern counties, the irrigated area increased from 200,000 hectares in 2010 to about 300,000 hectares in 2020, helping to stabilize and increase agricultural production.</p> <p>Fertilizer use has become more efficient thanks to precision technologies. For example, applying fertilizers based on precise soil and crop needs has increased the efficiency of their use, reducing costs and environmental impact.</p> <p>The deployment of drones and satellite imagery to monitor crops has allowed farmers to quickly identify and treat problems related to pests, diseases or nutrient deficiencies. This resulted in an average increase in production of 10-15% in the areas where these technologies were applied.</p> <p>Investments in agricultural storage and processing infrastructure have increased storage capacity and product quality. In Tulcea County, for example, grain storage capacity has increased by 20% in the last five years, reducing post-harvest losses.</p> <p>Access to European Funds, especially through the National Rural Development Program (PNDR) 2014-2020, made it possible to finance numerous projects to modernize farms and agricultural equipment. In the south-east of Romania, over 500 projects have been financed, contributing to the modernization of over 100,000 hectares of agricultural land.</p> <p>For example, the Terasa Bărăgan Irrigation Project - a major project to rehabilitate and expand the irrigation system in Bărăgan allowed the irrigation of over 70,000 additional hectares, increasing productivity in this essential agricultural area.</p> <p>Another example would be the use of precision technology at SC Agri-Innovation SRL, Constanta. This farm implemented precision farming technology, including GPS and drones, to monitor and manage crops, increasing yields by 20% and reducing operational costs by 15%.</p>
<p>Economic aspect: the economic impact of the activity</p>	<p>Improving agricultural efficiency in South-East Romania has had a positive economic impact, generating increased incomes for farmers, job creation, regional and national GDP growth and rural development. These benefits are supported by the use of modern</p>

	<p>technologies, optimization of resources and investments in infrastructure, all of which contribute to a more competitive and sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Increasing farmers' incomes through high productivity and reducing production costs. Increased crop productivity has led to higher incomes for farmers. For example, if the average wheat yield increased from 3.5 tonnes/hectare to 5 tonnes/hectare, farmers gained considerable additional income, given the average price of around 0.18 euros/kg. The use of modern technologies and precision agriculture has reduced production costs by optimizing the use of resources such as fertilizers and water. This resulted in a higher profit margin for the farmers.</p> <p>Job creation due to infrastructure development. Investments in agricultural infrastructure and processing and storage facilities have generated jobs in both the construction and operational sectors. The implementation of modern agricultural technologies, such as the use of drones and automated irrigation systems, has created new employment opportunities in the field of agricultural technology and consulting.</p> <p>Increasing regional GDP by contributing to national GDP and increasing agricultural exports. The South-East of Romania, being an important agricultural region, contributed significantly to the increase of the national agricultural GDP. Increased efficiency has led to greater value added in agriculture, contributing to overall economic growth. Improving the quality and quantity of agricultural products has allowed the region to export more, increasing export revenues and strengthening Romania's position on international markets. For example, grain exports from Constanța have increased significantly, bringing substantial income to the region.</p> <p>Rural development through investments in rural communities and the diversification of economic activities. European and national funds were used for rural development, including the modernization of rural infrastructure and public services. This improved the quality of life in rural communities and stimulated local economic development. Farmers began to diversify economic activities by introducing new crops and products with high added value, such as organic or niche products, which led to increased income and economic stability.</p> <p>Impact on the environment by implementing sustainable agricultural practices. Increased efficiency in the use of resources has reduced the negative impact on the environment, contributing to a more sustainable agriculture. This includes using water more efficiently and reducing the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.</p>
Main challenges of the activity in the region	<p>The challenges of improving efficiency in agriculture in South-East Romania are complex and interconnected. Addressing them requires a concerted effort from government, local communities, agricultural organizations and farmers. The proposed solutions involve both short-term interventions and long-term strategies to ensure sustainable and competitive agriculture in the region.</p> <p>Many small and medium farmers have difficulty accessing and adopting modern technologies due to high costs and lack of technical knowledge. For this, subsidy programs and financing for</p>

	<p>the purchase of modern equipment, trainings and workshops to educate farmers in the use of advanced technologies would be useful.</p> <p>Agricultural land is fragmented into small plots, which makes it difficult to apply modern and efficient agricultural practices. In this sense, land pooling programs and policies to stimulate agricultural cooperatives and the creation of partnerships between farmers for the joint use of equipment and resources would be necessary.</p> <p>Road and irrigation infrastructure is insufficiently developed, affecting the transport of agricultural products and access to water for irrigation. To improve this situation, investments would be needed in the rehabilitation and expansion of the irrigation infrastructure and rural roads, as well as infrastructure projects financed by European and government funds.</p> <p>Climate change is leading to unpredictable and extreme weather conditions, adversely affecting agricultural production. Therefore, the development and implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, including the cultivation of drought- and flood-resistant varieties, as well as the promotion of sustainable and resource-efficient agricultural practices would be appropriate solutions.</p> <p>The creation of microcredit programs and subsidized loans for farmers and the simplification of procedures for accessing European and national funds could solve the problem of difficult access to financing and credit for small and medium-sized farmers, who need capital for investments in modernization.</p> <p>Excessive bureaucracy and complex regulations can discourage farmers from accessing funds and implementing upgrading projects.</p> <p>Difficulties accessing national and international markets due to low competitiveness and lack of marketing and distribution infrastructure.</p>
Policies and institutions	
<p>What are the main national and local policies that influence the activity?</p>	<p>National and local policies play an essential role in improving efficiency in agriculture in South-East Romania. These policies target financing, infrastructure, agricultural education and the adoption of modern technologies.</p> <p>Implementation of these policies requires collaboration between various levels of government and local actors, including farmers, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the impact of policies is essential to adjust measures and ensure the achievement of efficiency and sustainability goals in agriculture.</p> <p>Effective implementation of these policies can contribute significantly to the sustainable development and competitiveness of agriculture in the region.</p> <p>The National Rural Development Program (PNDR) aims to support the modernization of farms, develop rural infrastructure, improve the competitiveness of agriculture and diversify the rural economy.</p> <p>The National Strategic Plan (PNS) for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027 aims to increase the sustainability and</p>

	<p>resilience of the agricultural sector, promote innovation and digitization, support farmers to cope with climate change.</p> <p>The National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Agriculture aims to promote sustainable agriculture, reduce the negative impact on the environment, and increase the efficiency of resource use.</p> <p>The Subsidies and Direct Payments programs aim to support farmers through direct payments and subsidies for various crops and agricultural practices.</p> <p>Regional Rural Development Programs aim to adapt national measures to regional specifics, support infrastructure and rural development projects at the local level.</p> <p>Local Support Initiatives for Precision Agriculture have as their objectives the promotion of advanced technologies in agriculture, the creation of consulting and training centers for farmers.</p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation Policies aim to reduce the vulnerability of agriculture to climate change, implement adaptation and resilience measures.</p> <p>Local Support Programs for Agricultural Cooperatives aim to encourage farmers to form cooperatives to improve their access to markets and resources.</p>
<p>What are the bodies and institutions working in the field related to the activity in the region?</p>	<p>The improvement of efficiency in agriculture in the south-east of Romania is supported by a complex set of institutions and bodies. These include government agencies, research institutions, universities, non-governmental organizations and financial institutions. Effective collaboration between these entities is essential to achieve the objectives of modernization and sustainable development of agriculture in the region.</p> <p>Among these we list:</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), which coordinates agricultural policy at the national level, implements the National Rural Development Program (PNDR) and manages subsidies and direct payments to farmers.</p> <p>The Agency for Financing Rural Investments (AFIR) - administers European funds intended for rural development, including projects to modernize farms and agricultural infrastructure.</p> <p>The Agency for Payments and Intervention for Agriculture (APIA), which manages direct payments and other forms of financial support for farmers, ensuring compliance with European and national regulations.</p> <p>The County Agricultural Directorates represent MADR at the county level, providing support and advice to farmers and implementing local agricultural policies.</p> <p>Research Institutions and Universities, such as the Research-Development Institute for Cereals and Technical Plants Fundulea (INCDA Fundulea), the Ovidius University of Constanta, the National Institute for Agricultural Research and Development (INCD)</p> <p>Non-Governmental Organizations and Professional Associations, respectively the League of Associations of Agricultural Producers in Romania (LAPAR), the Association of</p>

	<p>Maize Producers in Romania (APPR), the National Federation PRO AGRO</p> <p>European Agencies and Programs: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (FEADR), National Rural Development Program (PNDR).</p> <p>Financial Institutions: Development Bank of Romania (EximBank), Rural Credit Guarantee Fund (FGCR).</p> <p>Local Action Groups (LAG)</p> <p>Regional Cooperation and Development Projects</p>
<p>Are there specific incentives or programs to promote the activity? (list any national, regional funding)</p>	<p>There are multiple incentives and programs available for farmers in southeast Romania who want to improve their farming efficiency. These include grants and direct payments, European and national funding, regional and local initiatives, as well as research and innovation programmes. Accessing and using these resources can help farmers adopt modern farming practices, increase their productivity and contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture in the region.</p> <p>National Rural Development Program (PNDR)</p> <p>Direct Payments and APIA Grants</p> <p>European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)</p> <p>Local Action Groups (LAG)</p> <p>Regional Initiatives for Precision Agriculture</p> <p>Research projects in partnership with universities and institutes</p> <p>Rural Credit Guarantee Fund (FGCR)</p> <p>EximBank</p>
<p>Education and training opportunities</p>	
<p>What training opportunity is available?</p>	<p>In the south-east of Romania, farmers and other people interested in agriculture have at their disposal numerous training opportunities aimed at improving efficiency and adopting modern agricultural practices. These opportunities are offered through universities, research institutions, national and European programmes, non-governmental organizations and local initiatives. Accessing these resources can significantly contribute to the development of more efficient and sustainable agriculture in the region.</p> <p>Universities and Educational Institutions, such as the Ovidius University of Constanta (UOC), Information the National Institute for Research and Development of the Danube Delta I.N.C.D.D.D. Tulcea</p> <p>National Rural Development Program (PNDR)</p> <p>European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)</p> <p>League of Associations of Agricultural Producers from Romania (LAPAR)</p> <p>Romanian Maize Producers Association (APPR)</p> <p>Local Action Groups (LAG)</p> <p>Local training and education projects for farmers, funded through LAGs, that address the specific needs of local farming communities.</p> <p>Agricultural Consultancy Centre</p> <p>Training programs organized by private companies in partnership with public institutions</p>

<p>What is the role of the university and research in the development of this specific activity?</p>	<p>Universities and research play a crucial role in developing and improving the efficiency of agriculture in Dobrogea, Romania, through the following contributions:</p> <p>Research and innovation: Universities carry out agricultural research, which includes studies on soils, crops, agricultural technologies and the impact of climate change on agriculture in the Dobrogea region. This research provides the basis for developing more efficient and sustainable agricultural techniques and practices.</p> <p>Technology Transfer: Universities play a crucial role in technology transfer to farmers and farming communities. They can organize training sessions, workshops and practical demonstrations to introduce farmers to new agricultural technologies and methods, such as the use of modern equipment, efficient irrigation systems or soil management methods.</p> <p>Advice and technical assistance: Departments of agriculture and faculties of agricultural sciences of universities can provide advice and technical assistance to farmers in the region. This includes advice on crop management, fertilization, plant protection and other agricultural aspects to improve yield and quality of production.</p> <p>Applied research projects: Universities can initiate and implement applied research projects in collaboration with farmers and local agricultural organizations. These projects can aim at solving the specific problems of agriculture in Dobrogea, such as adapting to climate change, optimizing the use of natural resources or developing sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>Education and training: Through their educational programs, universities train future generations of agricultural professionals, including agronomists, agricultural engineers, researchers and natural resource management specialists. Graduates of these programs can bring innovative ideas and new knowledge to the agricultural field in the Dobrogea region.</p> <p>In conclusion, universities and research play an essential role in sustainable agricultural development and improving efficiency in agriculture in Dobrogea, Romania, through advanced research, technology transfer, practical consultancy and continuing education for professionals in the field.</p>
<p>SWOT analysis</p>	
<p>Strengths:</p>	<p>Rich natural resources: Southeast Romania benefits from fertile soils and a favorable climate for various agricultural crops.</p> <p>Strong agricultural tradition: There is a long history of agricultural practices in the area, with people who have knowledge and experience in the field.</p> <p>Access to international markets: The region has transport facilities and good connections to European markets.</p>
<p>Weaknesses:</p>	<p>Outdated agricultural infrastructure: Many farms in the region use outdated technology and equipment.</p> <p>Dependence on weather conditions: Agriculture is vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather conditions.</p>

	Agricultural land fragmentation: Small holdings and land fragmentation can affect efficiency and productivity.
Opportunities:	<p>European and national funds: Access to funds for the modernization of infrastructure and the adoption of modern technologies in agriculture.</p> <p>Growing demand for quality agricultural products: Opportunities to capitalize on the growing demand in the European market for organic and high quality agricultural products.</p> <p>Rural tourism and agritourism: The development of agritourism and rural tourism can provide additional income opportunities for farmers.</p>
Threats:	<p>Global Competition: Agriculture faces competition in the global market, where other countries may have lower production costs.</p> <p>Climate change: Increased risks of extreme weather events and drought, which can affect agricultural production.</p> <p>Agricultural regulations and policies: Changes in agricultural legislation and EU policies may affect the way farmers in South-East Romania manage their businesses.</p>

Studiu de fezabilitate - Agricultura inteligentă din punct de vedere climatic în regiunea Bazinului Mării Negre – România, material realizat în cadrul proiectului Alianța transfrontalieră pentru o agricultură ecologică și inteligentă în bazinul Mării Negre (AGREEN), nr. ref. BSB 1135, finanțat prin Programul Operațional Comun „Bazinul Mării Negre 2014-2020” de Cooperare Transfrontalieră (Feasibility study - Climate-smart agriculture in the region of the Black Sea Basin - Romania, material created within the project Cross-border Alliance for an Ecological and Intelligent Agriculture in the Black Sea Basin (AGREEN), no. ref. BSB 1135, financed by the Joint Operational Program "Black Sea Basin 2014-2020" of Cross-Border Cooperation)

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Direcțiile Agricole Județene (County Agricultural Directorates):

- Direcția pentru Agricultură Județeană Constanța/ Constanța County Directorate for Agriculture, <https://www.dadr-ct.ro/>;
- Direcției pentru Agricultură a Județului Braila/ Braila County Directorate for Agriculture, <https://www.dadr-braila.ro/>;
- Direcția pentru Agricultură Județeană Galați/ Galați County Directorate for Agriculture, <https://dajgalati.ro/>;
- Direcția pentru Agricultură Județeană Vrancea/ Vrancea County Directorate for Agriculture, <http://www.dajvrancea.ro/>;
- Direcției pentru Agricultură Județeană Buzău/ Buzău County Directorate for Agriculture, <https://www.dadrbuzau.ro/>;
- Direcția pentru Agricultură Județeană Tulcea/ Tulcea County Directorate for Agriculture, <https://dadrtulcea.ro/>;

Strategia Regională de Specializare Inteligentă a Regiunii Sud-Est 2021-2027 (Regional Strategy for Intelligent Specialization of the Southeast Region 2021-2027)

Renewable Energy	
RO22	South-East, Romania
Technical information (state of art of the activity)	
<p>Quantification: quantitative data of the activity (es. how many agritourism in the region, how much organic production etc etc)</p>	<p>In the area South-East, Romania, renewable energy has significant potential, contributing to diversifying the country's energy mix and reducing carbon emissions.</p> <p>The wind farms in Dobrogea, powered by the constant winds in the area, are some of the largest in Romania and in the region, with an installed capacity that often exceeds 2 GW. At the same time, Dobrogea benefits from a large number of sunny days per year, which makes it an ideal location for the development of solar power plants, whose installed capacities are constantly increasing. Dobrogea has become the most important wind area in Central and Eastern Europe, Constanța county being studded with hundreds of turbines, each with a power of 2.5MW. One of the largest functional wind parks in Constanța county is in the Cogealac-Fântânele area, with 240 turbines and a total installed capacity of 600 MW, while one reactor of the Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant has an electrical power of about 700 MW .</p> <p>Although Dobrogea's hydropower potential is more limited compared to other regions in the country, there are hydrographic resources such as rivers and lakes that can be used for hydroelectric power production. However, the development of hydropower has been less pronounced compared to that of wind and solar power.</p> <p>In southeastern Romania, biomass, which includes agricultural waste, wood and other organic materials, is used for energy production. This energy source is especially important in rural areas, where agricultural waste can be efficiently used to produce heat and electricity.</p>

<p>Economic aspect: the economic impact of the activity</p>	<p>The Dobrogea area in southeastern Romania is an important center for renewable energy, especially wind and solar, due to favorable climatic and geographical conditions. The economic impact of renewable energy in this region is considerable.</p> <p>Dobrogea has attracted billions of euros of investment in wind and solar farms, which has led to the development of local infrastructure, including roads and power grids.</p> <p>Renewable energy projects have created many jobs, both temporary for construction and permanent for operation and maintenance, reducing regional unemployment.</p> <p>Fees and taxes paid by renewable energy companies have increased local revenues, improving public services and infrastructure.</p> <p>The projects have boosted other local economic sectors such as component manufacturing and construction firms.</p> <p>Renewable energy reduces dependence on energy imports, increases energy security and helps Romania meet its environmental commitments.</p> <p>Investments in green energy stimulate technological research and development, supporting the advancement and training of a specialized workforce.</p> <p>In conclusion, renewable energy in Dobrogea brings major economic benefits, contributing to regional development, creating jobs, generating local income and promoting energy sustainability.</p>
<p>Main challenges of the activity in the region</p>	<p>The renewable energy activity in the South-East area, although beneficial from many points of view, faces several major challenges:</p> <p>Although considerable investment has been made, the transmission infrastructure and power grids may still be inadequate to handle the large volume of energy produced. The expansion and modernization of networks is necessary to avoid energy losses and to ensure stability of supply.</p> <p>Complex and slow procedures for obtaining permits and approvals can delay the development of renewable energy projects. Simplifying administrative processes and clarifying regulations are essential to encourage investment and rapid project development.</p> <p>Although there is great interest in investment, obtaining financing can be a challenge, especially for large-scale projects. High initial costs and long investment recovery periods can deter investors, especially in the absence of adequate support schemes.</p> <p>Although renewable energy is more environmentally friendly compared to traditional sources, the installation of wind and solar farms can have a negative impact on local biodiversity. Wind turbines, for example, can affect bird and bat populations. Careful assessment of environmental impact and implementation of mitigation measures is required.</p> <p>Local communities may oppose renewable energy projects due to concerns about noise, aesthetics and impact on farmland. Community involvement and transparency in communication are crucial to gaining public support and minimising conflict.</p>

	<p>Wind and solar energy are variable energy sources depending on weather conditions. This can lead to fluctuations in energy production and requires efficient energy storage and grid management solutions to ensure a constant supply.</p> <p>Despite the long-term benefits, renewable energy must compete with traditional energy sources, which may be cheaper in the short term. Subsidy and support policies for green energy are essential to level the playing field.</p> <p>Maintaining and updating the technology used in renewable energy parks is critical. The implementation of new technologies and constant innovation are necessary to improve efficiency and reduce costs.</p>
Policies and institutions	
<p>What are the main national and local policies that influence the activity?</p>	<p>Renewable energy activity in the South-East area is influenced by several national and local policies. At the national level, the National Energy Strategy and the Integrated National Plan for Energy and Climate Change (PNIESC) set targets for increasing renewable energy capacity. The Energy and Natural Gas Law regulates the sector, and the green certificate support scheme and European and national funds provide financial incentives. At the local level, regional development plans, land-use regulations, environmental protection initiatives and public-private partnerships support the implementation of green energy projects, ensuring their harmonious integration into the local landscape and protecting biodiversity. These policies combine efforts to promote sustainability and energy independence in the South-East region.</p>
<p>What are the bodies and institutions working in the field related to the activity in the region?</p>	<p>In the South-East area, renewable energy activity is supported by several institutions and bodies. At the national level, the Ministry of Energy, ANRE and Transelectrica coordinate the policy and regulation of the sector, while the Environment Fund Administration and OPCOM manage financing and the energy market. At the local level, county councils and town halls authorize the projects, and the Environmental Protection Agencies assess the environmental impact. Organizations such as RWEA and RPIA support the development of wind and solar energy. Through public-private collaborations and access to European and national funds, these entities ensure a favorable framework for increasing renewable energy capacity in the region.</p>
<p>Are there specific incentives or programs to promote the activity? (list any national, regional funding)</p>	<p>In South-East there are several support schemes for renewable energy. These include Green Certificates, which are awarded to producers for each MWh of renewable energy produced and can be sold on the market. There are also direct support schemes through regulated tariffs for green energy. European and national funds, such as the Large Infrastructure Operational Program (POIM) and the Competitiveness Operational Program (POC), are available for infrastructure and energy efficiency projects, including renewable energy in Dobrogea. At the local level, authorities can offer tax breaks and other facilities to attract</p>

	investment in this sector, supporting regional development and reducing carbon emissions.
Education and training opportunities	
What training opportunity is available?	In the region of the south-east of Romania, there are multiple training opportunities in the field of renewable energy. Higher education institutions and training centers offer specialized programs in energy engineering, solar and wind technologies, including practical courses for installation and maintenance. Industry organizations organize workshops and seminars covering advanced technical concepts and legal aspects of the energy industry. There are also affordable online certification programs that allow participants to learn at their own pace and gain essential skills for Dobrogea's growing job market. These training initiatives are crucial for preparing a skilled and adaptable workforce in the renewable energy sector, contributing to sustainable development and regional economic growth.
What is the role of the university and research in the development of this specific activity?	The universities of the South-East and Romania have a crucial role in the development of renewable energy through specialized education and training in energy engineering and solar and wind technologies. They lead energy efficiency research and technological innovation, working closely with industry to transfer knowledge and technologies. Universities also provide project consultancy and promote sustainability and social responsibility through education and awareness. Through these activities, it contributes significantly to the advancement of renewable energy in South-East and throughout the country.
SWOT analysis	
Strengths:	<p>Outstanding solar and wind potential: The South-East region benefits from one of the largest solar potentials in Europe and excellent conditions for the development of wind farms, thanks to the constant winds from the coastal area.</p> <p>Significant investments in wind and solar parks: this area is home to large-scale wind and solar parks, which contribute significantly to Romania's renewable energy production and the reduction of carbon emissions.</p> <p>Legislative and policy support: Government policies such as Energy Origin Certification Schemes and support through Green Certificates provide financial incentives and security to investors in renewable energy projects in the region.</p> <p>Transport infrastructure and international connections: South-East area has a well-developed energy transport network, including connections to the power grids of Bulgaria and other neighboring states, facilitating the export and import of green energy.</p> <p>Innovation and advanced research: The universities of Dobrogea are active in advanced research in the field of</p>

	<p>renewable energy, contributing to the development of new technologies and improving the efficiency of renewable systems.</p> <p>Positive economic and social impact: The development of renewable energy brings significant economic benefits by creating jobs, diversifying the local economy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels, while having a positive impact on local communities through social responsibility projects and environmental protection.</p>
Weaknesses:	<p>Dependence on fluctuating policies and regulations: Frequent changes in energy legislation and government policies can create uncertainty for investors and developers of renewable energy projects.</p> <p>Financing issues and access to financial resources: Limited access to adequate financing and high capital costs may slow the pace of development of renewable energy projects in the region.</p> <p>Limited capacity of the transmission network: The existing energy transmission infrastructure may be insufficient to handle the large amounts of renewable energy produced in Dobrogea, which may lead to energy losses and difficulties in integrating new capacities into the network.</p> <p>Environmental Constraints and Biodiversity Protection: The development of wind and solar farms can have a negative impact on the local environment and biodiversity, requiring assessments and appropriate protection and compensation measures.</p> <p>Local community resistance and public opposition: Some projects may face resistance from local communities for reasons related to landscape impact, noise and other social and cultural aspects.</p> <p>Technological and operational risks: Renewable technologies are susceptible to technological and operational risks, such as equipment failures and fluctuations in power production, which can affect the profitability of projects</p>
Opportunities:	<p>Exploitation of solar and wind potential: The area has abundant natural resources in solar and wind energy, which allows the development of solar and wind farms in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Access to financing and support schemes: National and European programs provide access to financing and incentives, such as Green Certificates and structural funds, supporting investments in renewable energy projects.</p> <p>International collaboration and partnerships: The South-East region benefits from international connections and partnerships in the field of energy, facilitating the exchange of technologies and expertise in the renewable energy sector.</p> <p>Innovation and advanced research: Universities in the region are leading research in energy efficiency and the development of new technologies for renewable energies, providing opportunities for innovation and implementation.</p> <p>Economic growth and job creation: Renewable energy development can stimulate local economic growth by creating</p>

	<p>jobs in the construction, operation and maintenance of energy parks.</p> <p>Sustainability and social responsibility: The implementation of renewable energy projects contributes to reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality, having a positive impact on the environment and local communities.</p>
Threats:	<p>Policy and regulatory instability: Frequent changes in energy legislation and government policies can create uncertainty for investors and affect long-term planning of renewable energy projects.</p> <p>Limited access to finance and capital: Investing in renewable energy projects requires significant financial resources, and limited access to finance and high capital costs can slow down the pace of sector development in the region.</p> <p>Underdeveloped grid infrastructure: The limited capacity of energy transport infrastructure can be a barrier to the efficient integration of renewable energy into existing grids, leading to energy losses and difficulties in managing production variations.</p> <p>Impact on the environment and biodiversity: The development of wind and solar farms can have a negative impact on the environment and local biodiversity, including through land occupation and landscape change.</p> <p>Public opinion and resistance of local communities: Some renewable energy projects may face opposition from local communities due to concerns about the impact on the landscape, noise generated by wind farms or other social and cultural aspects.</p> <p>Technological and operational risks: Renewable technologies are susceptible to technological risks, such as equipment failures and fluctuations in power production, which can affect the profitability and efficient operation of projects</p>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu>

<https://insse.ro/cms/>

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Name of the activity Risk management Strategies	
RO22	South-East, Romania
Technical information (state of art of the activity)	

<p>Quantification: quantitative data of the activity (es. how many agritourism in the region, how much organic production etc etc)</p>	<p>Risk management in South-East Romania is a complex and crucial activity, given the diversity and impact of the different types of risks faced by the region. Understanding and managing these risks is fundamental to protecting communities, the environment and infrastructure. In South-East Romania, risk management involves a variety of strategies and measures to deal with multiple types of risks. These risks include natural risks (earthquakes, landslides, drought), technological, economic and social risks. develop this. Risk management strategies are fundamental in protecting organizations, communities and the environment against the negative impact of different types of risks. In the specific context of southeast Romania, where various natural, technological, economic and social risks are encountered, the implementation of appropriate strategies is crucial for reducing vulnerability and improving the ability to respond to them.</p>
<p>Economic aspect: the economic impact of the activity</p>	<p>The implementation of risk management strategies in the south-eastern area of Romania represents a crucial initiative for the economy and sustainable development of the region. These strategies are designed to identify, assess and manage potential threats that may affect the communities, infrastructure and business environment in this part of the country. One of the most obvious benefits of implementing these strategies is the reduction of economic losses caused by various types of risks. The south-eastern area of Romania periodically faces extreme weather phenomena, such as floods and storms, but also industrial risks from the energy and chemical sectors. By adopting appropriate prevention, preparedness and rapid response measures, the impact of these events can be minimized, saving financial and human resources that would otherwise be needed for reconstruction and recovery. Another important aspect is improving infrastructure resilience. Investments in earthquake and flood resistant construction, advanced warning systems and disaster response can significantly reduce the costs of maintaining and repairing critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and power networks. This not only protects people's lives and property, but also ensures the continuity of essential services in crisis situations. In addition, effective risk management can lead to lower insurance costs for residents and businesses, reflecting more accurate risk assessment and better long-term risk management. Lower insurance costs allow funds to be saved for other investments or to improve the quality of life in the community. Improving the business environment and attracting new investment are other positive effects of a robust risk management system. Investors are often more willing to allocate capital to regions that demonstrate a strong ability to manage and minimize risk, which can stimulate local economic growth and job creation.</p>

<p>Main challenges of the activity in the region</p>	<p>The implementation of risk management strategies in the south-eastern region of Romania faces many complex challenges, which influence the efficiency and success of these initiatives. First, the aging and vulnerable infrastructure in the region is one of the biggest barriers. Many of the roads, bridges, and water and sewer networks are designed to older standards, making them susceptible to damage in the face of natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes. Modernizing and strengthening these infrastructures is imperative to increase resilience and minimize damage in the event of catastrophic events.</p> <p>Second, low awareness and education among communities about risks and precautions is a major problem. Many residents are not sufficiently informed or prepared to respond adequately in an emergency. Education and awareness campaigns are essential to improve preparedness and reduce the population's vulnerability to risks.</p> <p>In addition, insufficient funding is another important challenge. Implementing risk management strategies requires significant financial resources to invest in risk-resistant infrastructure, advanced warning systems and response equipment. Limited budgets and other development priorities can make it difficult to allocate the necessary resources for risk protection.</p> <p>Effective coordination and collaboration between various government entities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector is also a challenge. Risk management is not only the responsibility of local authorities, but requires the involvement of all stakeholders to ensure a rapid and effective response to crises.</p> <p>Finally, adapting to climate change and managing the risks associated with extreme weather events, industrial pollution or other technological threats are additional challenges. Developing and implementing plans and strategies to manage these risks is essential to protect communities and the environment from future threats.</p>
<p>Policies and institutions</p>	
<p>What are the main national and local policies that influence the activity?</p>	<p>In the south-eastern area of Romania, risk management strategies in the agricultural field are influenced by several essential national and local policies. The European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) provides financial and technical support, including crop insurance schemes and investment in irrigation infrastructure. Law no. 381/2013 on agricultural insurance regulates the framework of agricultural insurance, providing subsidies for insurance premiums against natural risks. The National Strategy for Rural Development 2014-2020 and the National Plan for Rural Development (PNDR) support investments in infrastructure and agricultural technologies, promoting environmentally friendly practices. The National Rural Development Program (PNDR) 2014-2020 supports the modernization of agricultural equipment and research in the field. The National Strategy for Risk Management in Agriculture and Local Rural Development Plans include measures to prevent and reduce the impact of natural and climate risks, developing early</p>

	<p>warning systems and the necessary infrastructure. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) provides technical and financial assistance, training and information programs for farmers. These policies strengthen the capacity of the agricultural sector in South-Eastern Romania to effectively manage risks, contributing to the sustainability and resilience of local agriculture.</p>
<p>What are the bodies and institutions working in the field related to the activity in the region?</p>	<p>In the south-eastern region of Romania, various bodies and institutions are involved in the development and implementation of risk management strategies in the agricultural field. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) is responsible for formulating and implementing national agricultural policies, providing technical and financial support to farmers and developing training and information programs. The Agricultural Payments and Intervention Agency (APIA) manages subsidies and direct payments to farmers, including crop insurance schemes and risk management measures. The Agency for the Financing of Rural Investments (AFIR) administers European funds intended for rural development and investments in agricultural and rural infrastructure, supporting irrigation infrastructure modernization projects and other relevant investments for risk management. At the local level, county councils and town halls develop and implement rural development plans that include specific measures to manage agricultural risks. In addition, non-governmental organizations and farmers' associations play a crucial role in educating and supporting farming communities in the face of risks. These bodies and institutions collaborate to ensure effective risk management in agriculture, thus contributing to the resilience and sustainability of the agricultural sector in the south-eastern region of Romania.</p>
<p>Are there specific incentives or programs to promote the activity? (list any national, regional funding)</p>	<p>In the south-eastern region of Romania, various incentives and programs support risk management in agriculture. Subsidies for agricultural insurance, regulated by Law no. 381/2013, covers part of the cost of insurance premiums against natural risks. The National Rural Development Program (PNDR) provides specific measures such as support for insurance (Measure 17), investments in irrigation infrastructure (Measure 4.3) and restoration of agricultural production affected by disasters (Measure 5). European funds support infrastructure projects to prevent floods and improve irrigation systems. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) also provides training and technical assistance programs for farmers. These initiatives increase the resilience and sustainability of local agriculture.</p>
<p>Education and training opportunities</p>	
<p>What training opportunity is available?</p>	<p>In the south-eastern region of Romania, farmers benefit from various training opportunities to improve agricultural risk management. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) organizes training courses and workshops on topics</p>

	<p>such as risk management and sustainable agricultural practices. The National Rural Development Program (PNDR) provides funding through Measure 1 for knowledge transfer and information actions, supporting professional training courses and demonstration projects. Agricultural education and research institutions also organize educational programs and training sessions for farmers. These initiatives contribute to increasing skills and adopting innovative practices in agriculture.</p>
<p>What is the role of the university and research in the development of this specific activity?</p>	<p>Universities and research institutions in the south-eastern region of Romania play a crucial role in risk management strategy activities in agriculture. These entities contribute through research and development, carrying out studies to identify and assess specific risks, such as extreme climate phenomena and soil problems. They develop innovative technologies and sustainable agricultural practices, thus contributing to improving the resilience of the agricultural sector in the face of challenges. Universities also provide education and training programs for farmers and field specialists, promoting advanced knowledge and skills necessary for effective risk management and the adoption of modern and sustainable agricultural practices. Through these activities, universities and research contribute significantly to the sustainable development of agriculture in the south-eastern region of Romania.</p>
<p>SWOT analysis</p>	
<p>Strengths:</p>	<p>Advanced research infrastructure: Universities and institutes have modern facilities for detailed analysis of agricultural risks. Adaptability to climatic conditions: Farmers are flexible in adopting the right technologies to manage climatic variability. Effective collaboration: Close partnerships between universities and farmers facilitate knowledge transfer. Access to finance and subsidies: Farmers benefit from financial support for agricultural insurance and irrigation infrastructure. Continuing education and training: University and research programs improve capacities to manage risks and adopt sustainable practices.</p>
<p>Weaknesses:</p>	<p>Vulnerability to climate change: Agriculture is exposed to climate variability and extreme events such as drought and floods. Limitations in access to advanced technologies: Some farms may have limited access to modern technologies that could reduce risks and improve efficiency. Limited financial resources: Farmers may face difficulties in accessing the necessary funds to implement risk reduction measures and upgrade infrastructure. Need for more education and training: There is an increased need for extensive education and training programs to increase awareness and skills in agricultural risk management. Limited coordination and communication: Sometimes there are deficiencies in coordination between research institutions,</p>

	authorities and farming communities in the effective implementation of risk management strategies.
Opportunities:	<p>Crop diversification: Promoting and supporting farmers in crop diversification to reduce risks associated with extreme weather conditions and market fluctuations.</p> <p>Efficient use of natural resources: Implementing agricultural practices that maximize the efficiency of using natural resources, such as water and soil, to reduce the impact of environmental and economic risks.</p> <p>Digitization and automation: Adoption of digital technologies and automation of agricultural processes for more accurate management of production and associated risks.</p> <p>Promoting organic agriculture: Supporting the transition to ecological and sustainable agricultural practices that can reduce vulnerability to risks and improve the resilience of the agricultural system.</p> <p>Investment in rural infrastructure: Developing and upgrading rural infrastructure, including roads and irrigation networks, to support farmers in managing and minimizing accessibility and infrastructure risks.</p>
Threats:	<p>Climate change: Rising temperatures, drought and extreme weather events can affect agricultural production and put pressure on natural resources.</p> <p>Vulnerability to diseases and pests: The spread of plant diseases and pests can cause significant crop losses and require costly interventions for control.</p> <p>Market and price fluctuations: Changes in supply and demand, fluctuations in prices of raw materials and agricultural products can affect the income and economic stability of farmers.</p> <p>Limited access to resources and technology: Farmers with limited financial resources may find it difficult to access the modern technologies and infrastructure needed to effectively manage risks.</p> <p>Agricultural regulations and policies: Legislative and policy changes can influence production conditions and farmers' competitiveness, often requiring costly adaptations and adjustments.</p>

Source:

<https://sgg.gov.ro/1/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Metodologia-de-management-al-riscurilor-2018.pdf>

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