

## RURAL ENVIRONMENT FROM THE NORTH WEST DEVELOPMENT REGION

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### Abstract

*Rural settlements in North-West Development Region face the same existing national problems: high mortality, poor attendance and sometimes even the lack of public facilities, underdeveloped communication networks in the territory, aging and feminized population which determines the existence of unused arable land, etc.*

*The existence of rural settlements is influenced by local and regional economic development. There are situations especially in the mountainous area where the aging population and low economic development can contribute to the disappearance of the respective villages.*

**Key words:** local development, rural community, labor, agriculture.

### INTRODUCTION

The six counties in the region include 402 communes and 1,800 villages.

Although currently there is registered a rapid urbanization, rural role is not reduced, but on the contrary it knows a complex process of development, considering that rural issues are numerous and sometimes local authorities have lack of vision development in the perspective.

In rural areas there is an urgent need for education and training, reorientation towards trades and professions required by the labor market, locally and nationally.

From social point of view, economic development after 1990, led to the appearance of rural unemployment but especially of extreme poverty.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

An important issue that arises regarding the rural environment from North West Development Region is the economic development and rural arrangement as it assumes achieving a balance between the requirement of conservation of economic, social-cultural and ecological rural space parallel with raising the living standards in rural life.

Rural development and arrangement is found at the intersection between the urban expansion tendency, industry development on account of rural space and the need to maintain the rural space at its current dimensions.

In economic structures, agricultural activities occupy the largest areas, agriculture being the foundation of rural space. In the mountain and premontane areas, forestry, forest exploitation, wood processing, forest resource processing industries are predominant in territorial and occupational plan. Also in mountainous areas are found and the agritourism activities, fishing, hunting, sports and recreational.

In terms of occupational, rural environment from Northwest Development Region is mostly a production space where weight is held by primary sectors activities. Those of agrifood production (field crops, pastures), vegetable growing, viticulture, horticulture, animal husbandry, crafts, hold a share in the general activities from the rural area.

Many of the practiced professions in rural areas are practice occupations, manual, some of which require professional poliquification. Through the specific of the activity, mutual assistance phenomenon is more evident than in urban areas.

In the North West Development Region, although there are certain problems of rural development there are optimal conditions for the development of animal breeding, good part of the agricultural area (about 50%) being covered by pastures also existing and large enterprises in the food industry.

In within the rural areas from the North West are encountered subsistence farms and the semi-subsistence farms characterized as being small agricultural exploitation managed in family, associated with production for their own alimentary needs and a low degree of participation in the market. These farms constitute a protection against poverty, a basis for farm diversification, but also providers for environmental benefits and other non-commercial benefits, especially as cultural property - keeping traditions, preserving some elements of the national specific.

As a result of land restitution, most of individual farms are characterized by low economic power and orientation towards self-consumption, having mostly a subsistence and semi-subsistence character.

Specific to Northwest Development Region is excessive fragmentation of land, which is a major impediment to technological progress of agriculture, as owners of subsistence and semi-subsistence farms are usually those who work most of agricultural land, and they do not have the financial capacity to invest in modern equipment. About 90% of agricultural households hold less than 5 ha and occupy half of the total utilized agricultural area of the Northwest Region.

In addition, in the mentality of many peasants any common work formula is treated as a collectivization of land, which represents an obstacle for the rational exploitation. Also, another issue refers to the level of self-consumption, which is quite high because of low living standards in rural

areas. A high proportion of agricultural holdings produce only for their own consumption (70%), the highest rate being the county of Maramures (78%).

In rural area from Northwest Region predominates private property, family, public and private property of the state is much smaller, particularly being reduced at reserves, national parks, lines of communication and transport networks land bordering.

In Northwest Development Region consumption expenditure of households had a share of 60% of total expenditure.

An aspect related to rural environment from the Northwest Region, and not only, is represented by closeness of its urban centers. Therefore the more the rural areas are closer to urban areas increase the access to a number of utilities and means of transport.

Currently the local authorities in rural areas face a number of problems, which mainly are: infrastructure, expansion of water distribution and sewage, lack of jobs, lack of funds, the integration of gypsy, aging, population exodus, retrocession of land and forests.

Rural development in the region also aims a cultural component particularly important, cultural phenomenon intertwining with phenomena of social, economic, political nature, whose level of development influences the quality and its area of expansion. Cultural phenomenon is constituted in a dimension of essence order with moderating role over the whole social life of the village.

In a certain way, on how the village culture is understood, its humanizing function on the rural communities, depends the physiognomy that will have through modernization the rural itself.

Considering these aspects of cultural rural space that assumes capitalization of traditional, customs, specific of rural life generally, it is required at local level, regional and local, a project of cultural management.

Rural areas generally confront a lack of education; whose purpose is represented by a better adaptation of the adult to the permanent changes of reality, also contributing to a better integration in a dynamic social climate.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the effort to redress the rural space, natural and human resources acquires a special importance. In consequence appears need to elaborate rural development strategies, a maximum attention being paid to the human factor in all aspects of its manifestations.

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