

STUDY ON AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT BENEFICIARIES GRANTED IN BIHOR COUNTY

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Abstract

The agricultural support granted to the farmers is of interest, firstly because agriculture in Romania is a risky activity, being a branch dependent on the weather conditions and secondly, because it offers the food source to the people. For these reasons the European Union financially supports granting funds for cultivation of agricultural land.

This subject needs to be treated from a legal point of view, as it contributes to a better knowledge of the agricultural activities that are carried out on the agricultural lands in Bihor county.

In Romania, agricultural support is granted to farmers starting with 2007, respectively funds for agriculture from the European Union in the form of direct payments on the surface.

Agricultural support can be requested by farmers by submitting an unique payment requests to the Agriculture Payments and Intervention Agency. This application is submitted only once a year within the specific terms established by normative acts.

Key words: support, Bihor, land, agricultural, agriculture

INTRODUCTION

According to this study, we will analyze the beneficiaries of agricultural support, limiting me territorially to Bihor county.

In Romania, agricultural support was granted, both during the pre-accession period to the European Union and after. Prior to 2007, the agricultural support was granted with financing from the state budget to the agricultural producers who requested support in the vegetable sector in the form of direct payments on the surface, through the award of value vouchers. Starting with 2007, the agricultural support was granted in the form of direct surface payments through the Single Surface Payment Scheme of the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF). This consists in granting a uniform amount per hectare, payable once a year, completely decoupled from production in order to support agriculture and investments in this area.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The paper aims to evaluate the situation of allocating the financial support granted to the applicants from Bihor county, in relation to the

benefits brought to Bihor agriculture. The Agency for Payment and Intervention for Agriculture (APIA) is the institution involved in managing European funds to these beneficiaries.

The research, related to a period of 5 years, offers some results from which a series of information emerges, both about the beneficiaries of agricultural support granted in Bihor county, as well as about the agricultural areas that are subject to payments. The data were taken from the records of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and the Agency for Payments and Intervention for Agriculture (APIA). We also used the information sources by accessing the websites: MADR, INSSE , APIA, and online publications with agricultural profile.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

At the level of Bihor County, during 2019, were submitted a number of 35,750 applications to APIA by farmers. A total of 30,771 applications were submitted by individuals, and 4,979 applications were submitted by legal entities. Of the legal entities, the limited liability companies requested 1817 applications, the family enterprises requested 544 applications, the authorized natural persons requested 1851 applications, the family businesses requested 767 applications, the associations / composers requested 167 applications, the joint stock companies requested 5 applications, and the agricultural companies requested 9 applications.

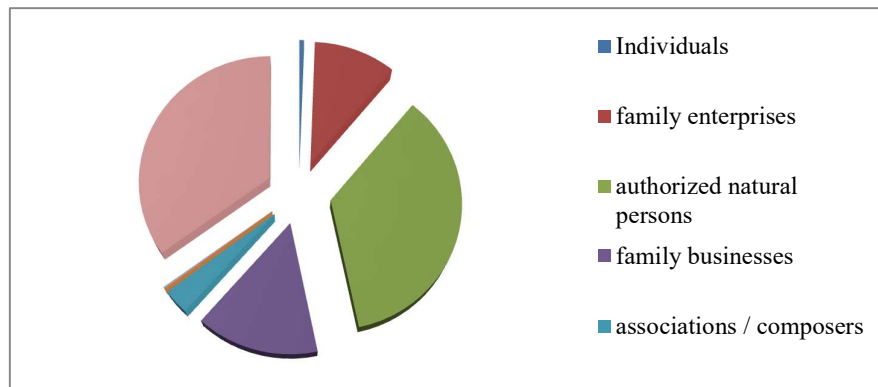


Fig. 1. Number of applicants at APIA level Bihor County Center for 2019

Both in our country and in Bihor county, - the beneficiaries of agricultural support - the economic agents that carry out agricultural activity take different forms. According to the *Government Emergency Ordinance no.44/2008 regarding the economic activities carried out by the authorized natural persons, the individual enterprises and the family enterprises* can

carry out agricultural activity: natural persons, authorized natural persons, family enterprises and individual enterprises. According to the *Law no. 31/1991 regarding trading companies, modified and completed*, carries out agricultural activity the following companies: in collective name, in simple partnership, in shares, in limited partnership in shares and with limited liability. *Law no.36/1992 regarding agricultural societies and other forms of association in agriculture* establishes the possibility of association, in order to exploit agricultural lands, in the form of agricultural societies. Can also carry out agricultural activity the forms of property ownership constituted on the basis of the Law of the land fund, respectively: composeorate and urban associations.

I will present below, for Bihor County, compared to the years 2015-2016-2017-2018-2019, the situation of the number of applicants for agricultural support respectively applications, submitted to APIA Bihor County Center.

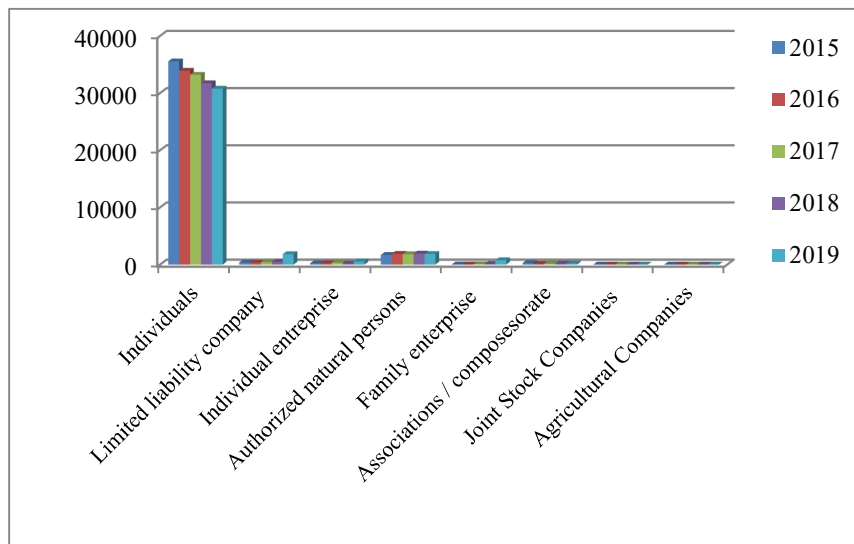


Fig. 2. Number of applicants at APIA level Bihor County Center for 2015-2019

The APIA subventions are granted in the form of payment schemes, as mechanisms for supporting and guaranteeing agricultural producers and economic operators, respectively the direct payment schemes and the transitional national aid applied in agriculture in the period 2015-2020, as provided. in the *Emergency Ordinance no. 3/2015 for the approval of the payment schemes that are applied in agriculture between 2015-2020 and for the modification of art. 2 of Law no. 36/1991 on agricultural companies and other forms of association in agriculture.*

Direct payment schemes are:

Single payment scheme on SAPS surface;
 Redistributive payment scheme;
 Payment scheme for climate-friendly agricultural practices(Payment for greening);
 Payment scheme for young farmers;

Table 1

The comparative situation of the number of applications submitted to APIA Bihor County Center for the years 2015-2019

| REQUESTS | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 39421 | 37800 | 37411 | 36572 | 35750 |
| Individuals | 35545 | 33909 | 33201 | 31714 | 30771 |
| Legal entities, of which | 3876 | 3908 | 4210 | 4858 | 4979 |
| Limited liability company (SRL) | 350 | 322 | 412 | 465 | 1817 |
| Individual enterprise(II) | 198 | 241 | 337 | 169 | 544 |
| Authorized natural persons (PFA) | 1674 | 1880 | 1819 | 1914 | 1851 |
| Family enterprise (IF) | 14 | 24 | 60 | 119 | 767 |
| Associations / composesorate | 255 | 128 | 154 | 156 | 167 |
| Joint Stock Companies (SA) | 8 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Agricultural Companies | 4 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 9 |

Coupled support - Soybean; Lucerne; Grain peas for industrialization; Beans for industrialization; Hemp for oil and fiber; Rice; Seed potato; Hop; Sugar beet; Tomatoes for industrialization; Cucumbers for industrialization; Cherries/cherries for industrialization; Solarium crops (tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, eggplants and peppers); Plums for industrialization; Apples for industrialization; Greenhouse crops (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and cabbage); Apricots/apricots for industrialization; Early, semi-early and summer potatoes; Silk worms; goats; Meat bulls; Dairy cows; Milk buffaloes; sheep;

Market and foreign trade measures are:

Reconversion/Restructuring;

Assurance;

Distillation of by-products;

Investments in the wine sector;

Promoting wines;

Actions to inform and promote agricultural products in the internal market and in third countries;

Financial aid for milk distribution in schools;

Financial aid for fruit distribution in schools;

Financial aid evaluation of the fruit program in schools;

Financial aid adjacent measures for fruit in schools;

Financial aid Producer groups in the fruit and vegetable sector;

Financial aid Producer organizations in the fruit and vegetable sector;
 Temporary exceptional financial aid granted to agricultural producers in the fruit and vegetables sector;
 National Beekeeping Program;
 Financial aid to reduce milk production;
 Exceptional aid (pigs/milk quota).

Transitional national measures as an additional form of payment are:

- ANT 1 - Transitional National Aid for arable land crops;
- ANT 2 - Transitional National Aid for fiber for flax;
- ANT 3 - Transitional National Aid for fiber hemp;
- ANT 4 - Transitional National Aid for Tobacco;
- ANT 5 - Transitional National Aid for Hops;
- ANT 6 - Transitional National Aid for sugar beet;
- ANT 7 - Transitional National Aid - Decoupled production scheme, bovine species - Meat sector;
- ANT 8 - Transitional National Aid - Decoupled production scheme, bovine species - Milk sector;
- ANT 9 Transitional National Aid - sheep / goat species.

State aid:

- State aid for diesel fuel used in agriculture;
- State aid in the animal breeding sector;
- Exceptional aid (pigs / milk quota);
- State aid granted to the agricultural renter who alienates or leases the extra-urban agricultural lands owned by him, or concludes an agreement with the investor.

Table 2

The comparative situation of the area used by farmers who submitted applications to APIA Bihor County Center for the years 2015-2019

| Year | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|----------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Area used (ha) | 357.319,257 | 320.526,87 | 324.306,14 | 321.672,17 | 325.080,95 |

The measures delegated by AFIR to APIA are:

- Measure 8 - Investments in the development of forested areas and in improving the viability of forests - only the Sub-measure is eligible 8.1 - Forests and creation of forested areas;
- Measure 10 - Agro-environment and climate;
- Measure 11 - Organic farming;
- Measure 13 - Payments for areas facing natural constraints or other specific constraints;
- Measure 14 - Animal welfare payments;

Measure 15 - Forest-environment services, climate services and forest conservation - can only be applied for Sub-measure 15.1 - Payments for forest-environment commitments.

In recent years, the total area used by farmers in Bihor county is different, but with close values.

CONCLUSIONS

The agricultural support can be requested by an unique payment application that is submitted annually to the Agency for Payment and Intervention for Agriculture, in order to obtain subsidies for cultivating the land they own or for animals breeding.

As it results from Law no. 1/2004 *regarding the establishment, organization and functioning of the Agency for Payment and Intervention for Agriculture*, at art. 1 is foreseen: *1) establishes the Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture, hereinafter Agency, a specialized body of central public administration, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with legal personality, fully financed from the state budget. art. 2 paragraph 1 the Agency is the public body responsible for managing certain forms of support aimed at supporting agriculture, financed from the state budget in accordance with the provisions establishing them.*

For the years studied, are noticed differences in the number of beneficiaries of agricultural support, differentiated according to the legal form of organization.

However, the areas of agricultural support granted in Bihor county in recent years have suffered modifications, but not major ones.

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