

AGRICULTURAL CONSULTING AND AGRICULTURAL CHAMBERS IN ROUMANIA - A CASE STUDY AGRICULTURAL IASSY COUNTY CHAMBER

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Abstract: Agricultural advice was initiated for the first time in Denmark, being taken over and developed and in other Western European countries (France, Germany, Austria), as a service financed entirely from the State budget.

These consulting services of the State are characterized, in particular, through a bureaucratic structure, rigid and difficult procedures of planning, finding himself in a close connection with the beneficiaries, in a pretty small meal. State Advisory services will work more effectively if they are able to involve the beneficiaries and agencies in establishing objectives and activities advice should ensure communication in both directions, between the organisation and beneficiaries, and to ensure rapid adoption of programmes have been developed according to the requirements of the beneficiaries. Consultancy services of the State may be centralised or not, decentralization is defined as a transfer of some functions.

Number of persons to whom it is addressed to the consultant there are several methods:

- Individual advice;
- Advice in the Group;
- Advice in droves.

Key words: consulting, county chamber, agriculture, counseling

INTRODUCTION

On the initiative of the European Union in 1998 and was established in Romania a national service in order to provide advice to farmers free of charge. In this regard, the Government Decision was developed. 676/1998, by which it established the Office of the National Agricultural Advisory Agency under the Ministry of agriculture and rural development. In addition to the initiative, the European Commission has assured full funding through the PHARE RO 9505-01-01, allocating a budget of over \$ 3 million.

In addition, the national service organization for consulting the farmers in Romania was provided by experts from the European Union, as

enshrined in the operating models Germany and England, adapted to the conditions in our country.

This service was provided to work consistently on three levels:

- *at national level (National Agency for Agricultural Consulting);*
- *at the county level (41 county offices for agricultural consulting-OJCA, including The Municipal Agricultural consultancy Bucharest-OMCA);*
- *at the communal level (526 of local agricultural advisory centers-CLCA).*

The majority of professionals who were going to fish in the future agricultural advisory service originated from County agricultural directions, thus having less experience in the new field of activity, particularly in communication, education, training of trainers, identifying target groups, extending the research results, dissemination of information, etc.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The study was conducted within the Iași County agricultural Chamber this is a public institution subordinated to the County Council of Iasi, which cooperates with the Department of consulting, training and extension of the Ministry of agriculture and rural development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

County Chamber of Agriculture of Iassy is a public institution subordinated to the County Council of Iasi, which cooperates with the Department of professional extension and training in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The main responsibilities of the County Chamber of Agriculture are the following:

- *develops the county plan of agricultural advisory services, with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and of the County Council of Iassy, respectively, ensuring its implementation;*
- *compiles the regional professional training plan, based on requests and forecasts, with the Ministry of agriculture and rural development and, respectively, with the County Council of Iassy;*
- *provides specialized training, in collaboration with specialised institutions, public or private;*

- *provides information and agricultural consultancy to the workers in agriculture and related fields;*
- *supports the organization and consolidation of associative forms and product chains;*
- *provides specialized technical assistance to all persons engaged in agriculture and related areas, in the application of modern agricultural technologies and new methods of management of farms;*
- *supports and covers the innovation activity in the field of technical assistance provided to agriculturalists and identifies new funding sources*
- *ensures technical assistance in the preparation of documentation regarding accessing European funds, providing financial support from national and European funds;*
- *organizes seminars, symposiums, trade fairs, exhibitions and scientific manifestations*
- *it is involved in promoting products and services of agriculture and related fields, including local products and ecological products;*
- *cooperates with institutions from the field of agricultural research in order to increase the competitiveness of agriculture and applied research;*
- *implements the minimum standards of quality and minimum standards regarding the cost for decentralized public services;*
- *contributes to the elaboration of the sectoral normative acts, of strategies and plans of specific areas of responsibility, in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*

County Chamber of Agriculture of Iassy organizes the following activities:

- *Popularization and promotion actions*
- *Professional training*
- *Guidance and consultancy on accessing EU funds*
- *Specialized technical support*
- *Consultancy for the establishment and operation of associative forms.*

The first mission of the County Chamber of Agriculture of Iassy is to support family farms to represent their interests, being an institution that has the role of direct information for agricultural producers, farmers, residents in rural areas and for all those interested in this field.

Farmers benefit from the services of Agricultural Chamber counselors free of charge, who are actively involved in the professional training of farmers, in the education regarding general management of the farms, offering support in the knowledge transfer, making individual and group counseling, analyzing proposals for the development of agriculture, field that is significant to the County of Iassy.

Chamber of Agriculture counselors also contribute to the development of rural and agricultural businesses in their area of activity represented by the communities in the county.

Depending on the economic dimension of agricultural holdings it is provided support for the development of tools for analysis, forecasting, consulting, technical and economical assistance, production monitoring and references for all the factors in the market.

Agricultural Chamber team meets the challenges of sustainable development in various areas and in all its dimensions through guidance, consultancy and extension.

Lately Chamber of Agriculture has developed a complex program to promote agriculture at the county level, with the aim of supporting farmers to develop their work, meeting their needs.

Chamber of Agriculture is committed to collaborate with many partners in a constructive and open, in order to enhance the performance of sustainable agriculture in the territory.

Vision and belief of our team is that rural development and progress in general can not be made without information, without consultancy, without knowing what's new in the field, without engagement and support, and the County Chamber of Agriculture of Iassy and its partners are trying to meet these requirements with professionalism and dedication.

Results achieved in 2013:

- *Support an information program, group counselling and individual assistance in all the municipalities of the county of Iassy, with field visits and organizing debates in 73 municipalities.*
- *Informing and counselling of 15,000 people through meetings, discussions, individual consulting, Iassy Agricultural Journal, own website, facebook.*
- *Professional qualification of 205 people who work/wish to initiate activities in rural areas.*

- *Improving the incomes of agricultural holdings by supporting the capitalization of production (organizing two exhibitions) and accessing European funds (developing payment files).*
- *Supporting the formation/strengthening of associative forms to develop family holdings (small and medium-sized farms).*

CONCLUSIONS

Advising farmers in choosing the nature and holding system, optimal technologies and environmental nonagresive, machinery and equipment, genetically superior material.

Advice in the following areas:

- *production plant;*
- *horticultural production;*
- *livestock production;*
- *ecological agriculture;*
- *agritourism;*
- *management of your farm and consultancy;*
- *legislation;*
- *to access grants and EU funds for agriculture and rural development.*

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