
FUNCTION OF AGRICULTURE IN DEVELOPMENT OF MICROREGION CEDRON

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ABSTRACT

The work focuses on the issue of agriculture tasks in the development of Cedron micro-region. The current agricultural problems are analyzed in this work. It is made by the author, who selected agricultural subjects and possibilities of the micro-region development through the agriculture sector. There are several reasons of ineffective development of the agricultural sector. The main reason is insufficient cooperation of local agricultural subjects and municipal self-government organs. Another one is financial aid from the state and European Union through grants. Big disutility for the agriculture in micro-region is absence of the relation to soil and subsequently absolute lack of interest for the work in this industry. Estates, which are not settled up or are crushed, are another problem. Agriculture is in this area typical for weak, almost none ability to compete, what is another obstacle in region development, and many others. The work is primarily focused on Cedron micro-region. The aim of this work is to evaluate the task of agriculture in the micro-region Cedron through local agricultural subjects, chosen by the author, and possibilities of micro-region development through agricultural sector. Based on the data collected from the research of individual subjects were proposed measures to improve the status of the agriculture, and possibilities of the micro-region development. On the regional level, it would be good for the future development of the micro-region introduction of taxes on corporate income legal persons as a shareholder duty, organization of various festivals with the topic of agriculture, concentration of farmers on the ecologically assumable procedures in agriculture, founding of wholesale with local agricultural products in one of the localities of micro-region, promotion of agricultural companies through publication technical articles and interesting information – advertisements in bulletins or internet sites of the community, or social sites, support of diversification of economic activities in agricultural industry, improvement of marketing.

Key words: micro-region, agriculture, regional development, Cedron

INTRODUCTION

The tasks of agriculture are nowadays an important issue not only in Slovakia, but in whole Europe. Agriculture is economical activity primarily dependent on a soil, because the whole production of food depends on it. Due to this fact, it is necessary to guarantee its substantiable development not only to maintain the soil itself, but in order to maintain its productive and non-productive abilities, in order to maintain the quality of natural resources, environment as a whole, but also to maintain substantial development of the whole society (Hronec a kol., 2001). It is a form of archetype of a landscape (Hreško, Kanasová, Petrovič, 2010). Agricultural production, as noted in Zoborský (2001), always run it certain concrete production conditions, in certain locality, in space, which is characterized by certain conditions. These specific conditions represent the environment in which the companies work. According to paragraph č. 539/2008 Z. z. about the support of regional development is micro-regional syndicate a juristic person, established to obtain the common solutions and to increase the economical development, social development and local development of the region. Micro-regions are voluntary settlement of villages in space, where villages cooperate to guarantee important functions and requirements. Settlement - spatial clustering villages is the dominant feature, although it does not mean that the members of such associations may also be other entities that do not carry the settlement and administrative functions (Tvrdoňová, 2006). Micro-region Cedron is located in southwestern Slovakia (Fig. 1). In terms of geographical and administrative division include Micro-region Cedron into two districts-Nitra and Nové Zámky. Micro-region associates cadastral area of 7 villages: Cabaj - Čápor, Svätoplukovo, Mojmirovce, Veľká Dolina, Poľný Kesov, Štefanovičová and Rastislavice, but also unites businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals. Area micro-region around the Cedrone represents 12,208.4 hectares. Cadastral area micro-region is situated in the fertile area Danube Lowland, on the southern outskirts of Nitra downs. The name of Cedron microregion was given according the stream which flows through all the municipalities associated in the micro-region. Micro-region is located in the temperate zone. Today cadastral area of micro-region constitutes to 10,982.3 hectares agricultural soil (Záväzná osnova integrovanej stratégie územia, 2008).

Micro-region Cedron is an area with a long agricultural history and tradition, but in last few years the importance of agriculture is in decline, because production is expanding nowadays, sale of products and services offered especially in the secondary and tertiary sector. These days, there are many bigger companies in the micro-region that are supported by the common agricultural policy of the European Union. Micro-region lost its ability to develop the potential of the area through employment in agriculture and today it fulfills largely residential function and the tail of the labor market for district towns.

The aim of this work is to find out, what are tasks of agriculture with the help of local agricultural subjects, and by exploring to find out what are the real possibilities of development of micro-region through agriculture sector in the restricted area, and so the following partial parameters:

- *Analyzing Cedron micro-region from the perspective of agriculture through local agriculture entities*
- *Identifying the main problems in the agricultural sector in relation to the development of Cedron micro-region*
- *The detection of the most important objectives in agriculture in relation to the development of micro-region*
- *Devising the measures for improving relationship agriculture and Regional Development in the solution area*

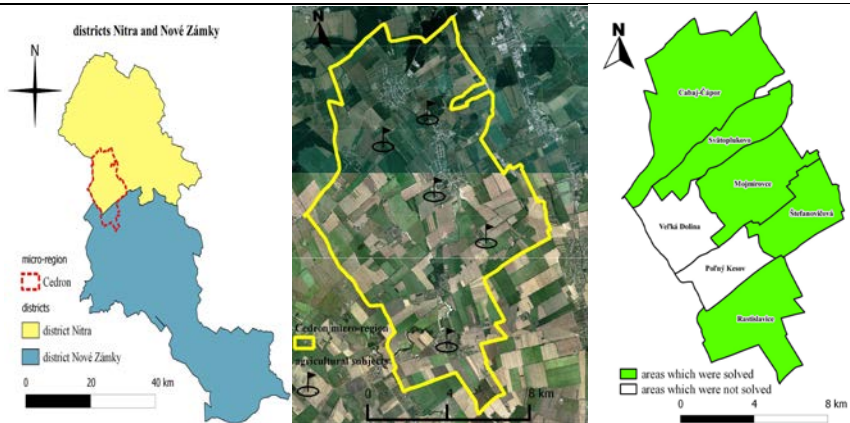


Fig. 1. The definition investigated territory

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In this work, we focused to assess the role agriculture in the development of Cedron micro-region with the help of local agricultural subjects. Obtaining and analysis of the results have come to a finding, what are the real possibilities of development micro-region trough sector agriculture within the delimited area. The structure of the work has been practiced in several steps:

1. The analysis of the secondary information sources

After determining the assignment structure of work defining his objectives selection methods, we analyzed secondary sources of information. These were processed by the method of analysis, synthesis, induction and deduction.

2. Characteristics of investigated area and identification of the main factors in the field of agriculture

For the processing characteristics of the investigated area was used the method of analysis of the secondary information sources, particularly statistical data and data from the Municipal Office. The next step was summarized information on Cedron micro-region, which determines the development of micro-region, where were identified the main factors in the field of agriculture and the impact of agriculture on the development of this region. For better representation of subjects, geographic information systems (GIS) were used. It is visualized by the individual map outputs (definition of micro-region, individual municipalities and also individual solved subjects).

3. Finding of the role of agriculture in the development of Cedron micro-region

The primary sources of information were obtained by:

a) Methods of direct interview were conducted with the head of the Department of strategy and regional development programs, with the mayors of all villages in the micro-region, with competent people of every agriculture holding. The aim of semi-standardized interview with these people was to obtain primary sources of information - information about the holdings, the villages that were not reached in any secondary sources. The purpose of the interview was to identify stakeholder links to agricultural entities, and also to highlight the role of the agriculture in the selected micro-region. All interviews took place in following period of time - November 2011 to April 2012. Results were elaborated by the method of analysis and synthesis.

b) Method of questionnaire survey was done by the five completed questionnaires. The aim of the research was assumption, what role fulfills the agriculture in Cedron micro-region. Seven agricultural subjects were contacted – three agricultures holdings, one private farm and three SHR. Percentage return was five out of seven questionnaires – 80% return. The questionnaire survey was made in December 2011.

The results based on communication with the stakeholder we put in the table. Weakness and strengths of the development of agriculture in Cedron micro-region were defined and analyzed.

4. *Proposals solutions*

After processing of all necessary data for the analysis, solutions that could in the future help with development of Cedron micro-region were designed.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results from questionnaires shows the table bellow.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p style="text-align: center;">Human</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified specialists in agriculture sector – viniculture, pomiculture 	<p style="text-align: center;">Human</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improper demographic structure - growing older population • Absence of young generation relation to the soil
<p style="text-align: center;">Natural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenient climatic and soil conditions for vegetable animal farming • Convenient climatic conditions for the development of viniculture • High quality of arable soil • Enough of agricultural soil • Suitable conditions for summer recreation and tourism • Existence of protected natural areas in some localities • Occurrence of artesian wells in some localities 	<p style="text-align: center;">Natural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local sources of pollution of environment components (existence of illegal dumps on the micro-region area, burning of green waste, pollution of water course • Existence of menace to pollution of environment components (Nitra a Duslo Šaľa) • Intensive usage of agricultural soil, huge blocks of arable soil parcels
<p style="text-align: center;">Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of objects with historical importance – manor houses, parks and curia • Existence of separated waste collection • Growth of hose and dwelling foundation 	<p style="text-align: center;">Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incomplete technical infrastructure (sewerage, ČOV) • Bad condition of roads • Existence of abandoned and real estate that are not used

Economic	Economic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic potential of micro-region • Existence of viable and qualitative agricultural cooperatives • Suitable conditions and tradition for enterprise in agriculture sector • Strong representation, productive ability and viability of local SHR • Comparative advance in agriculture (enough of cheap labour) • Existence of agriculture tradition in region • High interest on total realty tax revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low financial support of small and medium enterprises • Weak agricultural competitiveness • Low rate diversification of economic activities in the agricultural sector • Insufficient conditions for founding of family farms • Lack of labour time in villages of micro-regions • Low cooperation between enterprisers and villages • Not settled up proprietary right in relation to estates

The strongest human side of the farms is their availability of highly qualified professionals. Natural strengths of the agribusiness are its property of the latest agricultural technology and machinery. Agricultural entities tend to regularly attend agricultural competitions. It means that marketing runs on a good level, what is next positive for the micro-region. The big plus is that local businesses are the largest employers in the micro-region. The indigenous population consists 90% of total number of employees .

Weaknesses include especially the lack of interest of younger generation about land. Negative aspect, that would be improved in the near future is insufficient technical infrastructure, bad road conditions leading to the enterprises, but also in their own businesses. One of the weaknesses is also dilapidated and unused buildings of the former cooperatives. In the economic area, low financial support from the state and the EU in the form of direct payments on land area and on crops is considered as a weakness. Financial support from the government almost none. Regarding cooperation between businesses and municipalities in the micro-region, research shows, that only in the village Mojmírovce Municipal office cooperates with PD Mojmírovce. The big minus is that agricultural entities and their products do not stand under the regional brand. Agribusiness has many weaknesses, which with a little endeavour and effort could be moved into position of opportunities.

Results of the analysis show that it is suitable to recommend following measures:

- Organisation of various festivals with agriculture theme,
- The introduction of taxes on corporate income legal persons as a shareholder duty,
- The focus of farmers on environmentally sound practices in agriculture,
- Creation of the wholesale with local agricultural products in the micro-region,
- Promotion of agricultural holdings (or of cooperatives, small and medium-sized farmers) through the publication expert articles and interesting information,
- Encouraging diversification of economic activities in the agricultural sector,
- Better marketing of an existing ranch in the village Cabaj - Čápor.

CONCLUSIONS

To improve the current situation, we propose to develop a national institutional structure society, agricultural policy oriented to surface support production, which takes into consideration needs of able to buy demands, increase productivity of the soil as a production factor, to buy modern

agricultural technology, to raise capital endowment agriculture holdings and eventually to raise financial resources through subsidies from the state and the EU. I believe that we will find possibilities how to improve the economic, ecological and social potential of the country. New technologies and legislation should bring possibilities to improve the quality of current results and thus improve both quality of life and the quality of the environment in the Cedron micro-region.

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