

ADVANCING THE ROMANIAN AGRIFOOD SECTOR: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND THE ROLE OF THE ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK



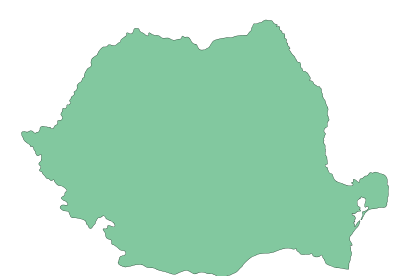
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INTRODUCTION

The Romanian agricultural sector is one of the major drivers of the Romanian economy. At the same time, it is also one of the sectors facing complex challenges due to small farm surface, traditional farming techniques, mixture of crops, labour migration, lack of facilities for processing and marketing agrifood products, climate change etc. This negatively impacts the sectors competitiveness. In this context, the study proposed identifies two opportunities which could contribute to the sector's development: technology transfer to boost domain competitiveness and product internationalisation to ensure increased market access and multiply revenue sources.

THE ROMANIAN AGRIFOOD SECTOR IN FIGURES

THE GOOD



approx. 55% of the country's area



employs 23% of the Romanian labour force

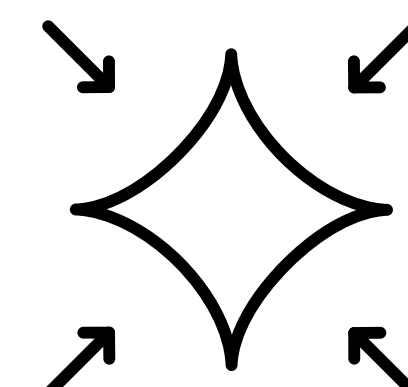


groups 2.9 million farms of the EU (31%)



major producer of cereals, sun flower seeds, honey and plums

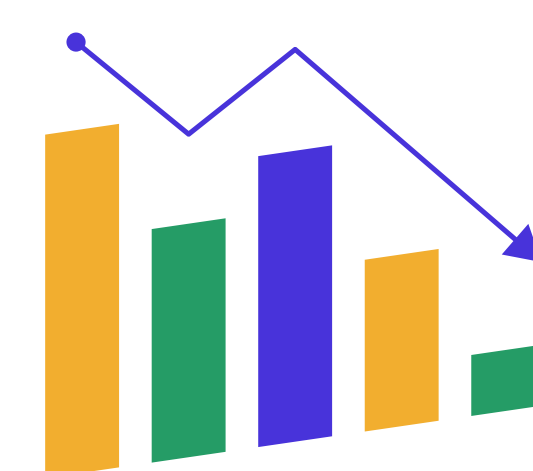
THE CHALLENGES



90% of Romanian farms are smaller than 5ha, where the EU average mean size is 17.4 ha



high fragmentation and non-homogenous territorial dispersion, traditional farming techniques, negatively impacting strategic development and productivity



low productivity – Romanian agriculture accounts for only 3.3% of the EU's standard output

OPPORTUNITIES

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Technology transfer is the process by which new technology, research findings, innovative practices, knowledge and skills and IP developed by universities and research centers are transferred to companies and industries to overcome real challenges. It can support the agrifood sector by:

- integrating traditional farming techniques and practices with modern technologies;
- transferring new farming techniques, precision agricultural tools, biotechnology advancements, food processing innovations (eg. AI-powered sensors/drones for precision fertilisation);
- sustainably improve farm productivity and make agrifood products more competitive on the markets.

ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is the world's largest support network for small and medium-sized enterprises. It offers a wide range of standard and tailored free services ranging from access to finance, technology transfer and support for internationalisation.

It can support the agrifood sector by:

- facilitating the access of agri-food companies to information, knowledge, cutting-edge technologies, partnerships and funding;
- providing specialised solutions enabling farmers to expand their technological capabilities and identify cross-border partnerships, thus increasing market access;

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