**REGIONAL ECONOMY**

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Măzăre Silvia  
DRD  
USPEE Constantin Stere, Republic of Moldova

Copaceanu Cristina  
PhD in Economics, Associate Professor  
USPEE Constantin Stere, Republic of Moldova

**PROFITABLE AGRICULTURAL CROPS IN ROMANIA**

*Abstract:* The word "culture" comes from the Latin cholera, which means "to cultivate, to take care". Agriculture is the cultivation of the land to grow plants. It has been the main branch since the beginning of civilization. This occupation provides most of the food; materials needed for clothing and other raw materials for industries.

*Keywords:* agriculture; agricultural crops; agricultural crops in Romania.

*Introduction:* With an agricultural area of 14.8 million hectares, Romania has only ten million hectares occupied with arable land.

Agriculture is an important branch of the Romanian economy and, every year, the results in this field directly dictate the performance of the Romanian economy.

Profitable agricultural business can bring significant income even from the exploitation of a single hectare of agricultural land if the chosen crop is one with marketed production. The investment in a profitable plant must be based not only on the agricultural area and the initial costs, but also on a correct and efficient strategy for capitalizing on production. Whether we are talking about the direct sale of the crop or its processing, we need to make sure that we have demand in the market or that our business plan can support the activity if it does not bring us the expected results from the first year.
Context. The preferred and profitable agricultural crops in Romania are:

Rapeseed is an annual or biennial plant. There are many varieties of rapeseed. Of these, some are recommended for autumn crops and others for spring crops.

Rapeseed can be used both in food and as a biofuel, being a very good plant for honey production. In the rapeseed culture, the rotation of the crops is very important, but also the choice of the previous crops. Highly sought after, rapeseed gives a good yield both in terms of production and in terms of investment.

Rapeseed has gained more and more ground in Romania over the last decade. And that's because it can produce both the best quality oil and biodiesel, a fuel increasingly more sought after. The latest cultivation technologies in the field, but also the emergence of hybrids allow its successful cultivation in climatic conditions in our country.

Rapeseed is one of the most profitable agricultural crops in Romania. Taking into account an average production of 2500 kg / ha, the gross profit resulting after deducting the total expenses is approximately 1623 lei / ha. One of the advantages of rapeseed cultivation in Romania is that it saves, to a certain extent, the farmer from the whims of hot summers. All the more so when high-performance hybrids are cultivated that have the ability to capitalize on the rainfall that falls during the winter so that the rapeseed can reach maturity before the onset of summer droughts, such as Dekalb hybrids.

Manual work-Served by equipment - 4 hours x 8 lei = 32 lei
Direct expenses = 1706 lei
Operating expenses (10%) = 170 lei
TOTAL EXPENSES = 1876 lei
Income 2500 kg x 1.4 lei = 3500 lei
Gross profit = 1623 lei / ha
Study source: www.madr.ro

Sunflower crops are also profitable, if we take into account the expenditure-income ratio. The average production per hectare of land is at least 2,500 kg, which at a good price means a significant profit. Under normal climatic conditions and respecting the technical requirements of cultivation, one hectare of sunflower should
bring an average gross profit of at least 1,200 lei. According to official statistics, in 2016 and 2017 Romania recorded records in the European Union for sunflower production.

Photo source - agrointel.ro

Sunflower is one of the most widespread oil plants in our country. From its seeds is obtained an oil with great spread both in Romania and abroad. The high demand for sunflower oil, but also the multiple uses of this plant determine more farmers to go to cultivate it.

The importance of sunflower cultivation is given by its wide use in human nutrition, but also in animal feed, including industrial and energy uses.

Sunflower oil is especially used in human nutrition because it has a superior quality, a pleasant color, taste and smell. It is considered one of the best vegetable oils, with a high content of unsaturated fatty acids. It has a low content of saturated fats and cholesterol and a high content of vitamins - E, B5, B3, B1, K, A and D. It has a high smoking point - 207 degrees Celsius for crude oil and 230 for refined oil.

And sunflower seeds can be consumed as such providing about 550 calories per 100 grams consumed. They are also used in mixtures of seeds and flakes for breakfast, but also in pastries and bakery.

Cakes and grits from plant processing are used in animal feed, as are shells or
calatids. Sunflower also has industrial uses, it being a primary source for the production of soaps, detergents, paints, cosmetics, toiletries, pharmaceuticals, but also in the manufacture of pesticides. At the same time, sunflower oil has physical properties similar to those of diesel fuel, so this plant also has energy uses.

Manual work-Served by equipment - 6 hours x 8 lei = 48 lei
Direct expenses = 1553 lei
Operating expenses (10%) = 155 lei
TOTAL EXPENSES = 1709 lei
Income 2500kg x 1.2 lei = 3000 lei
Gross profit = 1290 lei / ha

Study source: www.madr.ro

Maize cultivation is an important sector of Romanian agriculture and economy. The average gross profit that can be obtained from one hectare of cultivated corn is at least 1,300 lei, if we take into account an average production of 6,500 kg / ha of grain corn and an average price of 0.6 lei / kg. In large farms, where massive investments are made in high-performance corn hybrids and modern technologies are applied, 10 tons per hectare were obtained in 2017, placing corn in the top crops
of major importance in Romania.

Corn is considered the most productive plant of the cereal species, having a great "ecological plasticity", being grown in very different climatic conditions - from Canada and Russia in the northern hemisphere to New Zealand in the southern hemisphere.

Maize ranks second worldwide if we consider the cultivated area (by wheat) and the first place as total production (1.148 million tons). Of this amount, about 2/3 is used as feed. Much of it is harvested ripe and used as feed grain. Of the various ways in which animals can be fed, corn has the highest caloric content.

The cultivation of corn is not as pretentious as other cereals, but with some peculiarities. It has many uses, being a culture that sells very well, it can bring significant profits to entrepreneurs.

Manual work-Served by equipment - 4 hours x 8 lei = 32 lei
Direct expenses = 1746 lei
Operating expenses (10%) = 174 lei
TOTAL EXPENSES = 1920 lei
Income 5000kg x 0.6 lei = 3250 lei
Gross profit = 1329 lei / ha
Study source: www.madr.ro

As for wheat, specialized analyzes show that one hectare to be cultivated with
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this crop generates a gross profit of 1,200 lei, if we take into account an average production of 5,000 kg / hectare and a price of 0.6 lei / kg. We mention that the statistical data places Romania on the 5th place in the area cultivated with wheat, after France, Germany, Poland and Spain.

Wheat (Triticum aestivum) is the most important cultivated plant in the world (in over 100 countries). The wheat plant is of great importance in the food industry and is mainly used for flour production. The stems left after harvest are used as raw material in the manufacture of cellulose. They are also used in animal feed or as organic fertilizer. Bran (residues from the milling industry) is a concentrated feed, rich in protein and mineral salts. Wheat cultivation is a good precursor for most crops and has the advantage that it is 100% mechanized.

Manual work-Served by equipment - 4 hours x 8 lei = 32 lei
Direct expenses = 1661 lei
Operating expenses (10%) = 166 lei
TOTAL EXPENSES = 1848 lei
Income 5000kg x 0.6 lei = 3000 lei
Gross profit = 1171 lei / ha
Study source: www.madr.ro

Conclusion. In recent years, sunflower cultivation has become more and more...
attractive for Romanian farmers, both through the stability offered by the constant capitalization prices at the time of harvest, and through the prism of increased tolerance to drought. Sunflower cultivation tends not to disappoint, offering constant yields and safety to farmers.

Other crops that influence the figures of the Romanian economy are potatoes, soybeans, barley, sugar beet, but also baciferous and horticultural products. In fact, agriculture represents 5% of the gross domestic product of our country, involving 30% of the active population on the labor market.

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