

CONSIDERATIONS ON THE INCLUSION OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ROMANIAN NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

*General (ret.) Professor Eugen BĂDĂLAN, PhD**

The present paper presents some considerations on the inclusion of sustainable rural development in the national security strategy of Romania as well as on the changes in the evolution of the national security strategy paradigm.

Keywords: *changes; paradigm; national security strategy; sustainable rural development.*

Changes of the National Security Strategy paradigm

The nowadays bipolar world is characterized by unpredictable evolutions, major unbalances, and also by an increasing frequency of changes at regional and global level with the facile trespassing of national borders. In the forefront of political and economic scene, beside the consecrated geopolitical actors new states appeared, especially in the Asian area, endowed with economic efficiency and technological progress.

The novelty in the present world balance is an emphasis on the role of the economic-financial factor that has become more prominent, thus asserting major restrictions to the political level. The nowadays financial crisis is the result of the global financial power will to resettle the current world balance on solid grounds conferred by the real, tangible economic-financial potential. It is intended to reconstruct the hierarchy of geopolitical influence bearing away the unimportant actors from the regional and global power equation.

* Deputy, Secretary of Defence Commission in the Romanian Parliament, President of the Section of Military Sciences from the Academy of the Romanian Scientists, phone/fax: +40213229165; e-mail: b51me@yahoo.com.

Under the already mentioned circumstances, the world states are in the position to manage a wide range of risks and threats. The first set of destabilizing factors refer to *hard* factors, such as armed aggression, violation of the territory from the borderline, territorial rapt, local conflicts or state terrorism. The *hard* risks and threats are visible and therefore revealed by the public opinion, the United Nations Organization, and the security organizations with regional vocation.

Those threats are approached in the National Defence Strategy, the document synchronizing the decisions made at national level in order to counteract the destabilizing factors by adequate measures regarding the use of the state's armed power. The National Defence Strategy defines the defence policy guidelines, the armed forces missions and the means to use the forces able to fulfil the aimed goals. The National Defence Strategy must be presented by the Romanian President 6 months subsequent to his/her investiture. The document generates guidelines of action for other subsidiary documents, the White Chart of Defence, elaborated by the National Ministry of Defence and the Military Strategy settled by the General Staff.

The *hard* way of action is considered counterproductive in the actions against another state, if we take as an example the Iraqi War, in 2003. The military actions leading cost billions of dollars, but the efforts from the postconflict period for Iraq's reconstruction were ten times expensive. The Iraq War winners had, in real terms, the hardest bill to clear by assuming the political, administrative, economic, social, security etc. attributes of the defeated state. Consequently, that way is obsolete. This can be exemplified by the situations in 2011 from Egypt, Bahrain, Syria and Libya where different ways were activated to reach to the desired goal. Practically, we witnessed a return to Sun Tzu's assertion from the "Art of War" stating that the perfect victory is materialized in the situation when you defeat the enemy army without producing any victim. On this line, the *soft* means can have great diversification: elements of climatic and telluric war, financial crises, cyber attacks, biological war, commercial war, interethnic manifestations, bioterorist attacks protectionist policies, collapse of the national currency, soil and underground wealth seizure, bad governance etc. The diversified, omnipresent *soft* means with possibilities to widen their action range should be the object of National Security Strategy. Thereby, the National Security Strategy has diverse components: military (of defence), economic, demographic, diplomatic, food, cyber, technical, health, etc.

By its integrator dimension as a document initiated to counteract the factors of external and internal risks and threats, the National Security Strategy answers to the

priorities grounding the existence of the Romanian state. The *soft* threats can regard all the fields and activities consecrated to the preservation of citizen's security, public order, national security and defence. In order to effectively prevent the multiple challenges efficient forms of activity can be taken into consideration in the fields of intelligence, counter-intelligence and security, expressed by measures of efficient prevention and management of crises, along with the measures from the threat materialization field.

The National Defence Strategy must allow the fulfilment of some distinctive goals:

- The identification and proactive counteraction of destabilizing factors, the diminution of vulnerabilities from the political, economic, military, social etc. spectre;
- The prevention of conflicts and efficient management of destabilizing factors against the national security, of crisis situations and diminution of their consequences;
- The active participation to the promotion of democracy and the building of security and prosperity in the vicinity of Romania and other areas of strategic interest;
- The thorough involvement in the transformation of internal social-economic framework and in the enhancement of the national capabilities.

As we have seen, the National Security Strategy includes the Defence Strategy. As far as the relation between the National Security Strategy and the Defence Strategy is concerned, a few delimitations are needed. The release of the National Security Strategy is absolutely needed, as it is a fundamental, comprehensive and perspective document. The National Defence Strategy can be part of the National Security Strategy restrictively approaching the national defence issue. Therefore, the release and approval of the integrator document is an undisputable priority on the strategic level.

In agreement with the requests coming from the Romania statute as border-state of the European Union, we consider that our country must be seen as one of the dynamic vectors of prosperity and security in the Black Sea Region. In our view, an instrument of maximum efficacy in the National Security Strategy content is the enclosure of the *sustainable rural development* concept intending to contribute to the eradication of certain economic-social vulnerabilities of Romania.

The priority of the Sustainable Rural Development of Romania

The Sustainable Rural Development is both a concept and an absolute strategic priority of Romania. The concept's content refers to the way to restart the national economy engine, involving in synergy all the country's economy sectors. It

aims to mobilize and value Romania possibilities on short, medium and long term concerning the provision of the vegetal and animal food in the rural environment, the conditions of existence, comfort and wellbeing.

The starting point is represented by the investments in the rural environment, as this sector benefits from the territorial fund, claims little investments and obtains enhanced efficiency. The rural sector comprises 40% of the country's population who, dramatically hit by the insufficiency of material resources, has only symbolic assistance and social protection, the level of pauperization being very high. At the level of the Romanian village, *the first step* is to stop the present social-economic decline that presumes import of food for population, *the next step* is to provide the food necessary for the poor rural communities by own efforts and *the third step* is to inverse the actual report by sending the surplus of food to the neighbouring urban environment and also to export.

The Sustainable Rural Development means the following: to gather the constructive effort to use the existent labour force in the rural environment; to provide modern technology; to allocate financial resources; to grow the institutions' potential for main exploitation of soil's possibilities in order to obtain, develop and consume the vegetal and animal production at rural and urban level with possibilities for industrial processing; to implement the living, comfort and civilization factors in the rural environment and to turn to profit the surplus of production in the urban environment.

Romania takes the 5th place in Europe to the items of arable and agricultural surfaces owing the potential to produce food for about 80 millions inhabitants. The catalysts of this concept's success are the national effort synergy and high management. The finality of efforts consists in the preservation of food and demographic security, essential compounds of national security.

The synchronization of efforts is possible by the constructive integration of distinct strategies on sustainable development:

- *at the national level* – fulfilled to the Executive level with the agreement of Opposition and the consultation of the academic environment by multi-yearly plans on long term (25 years), medium term (15 years) and short term (5 years) forecasts;
- *at the county level* – grounded by the Prefect institution in agreement with the field's specialists with the large support of Local Council, on medium and short term;
- *at the commune level* – instituted on medium and short term by the Mayor with the support of the Local Council.

The Agro-Industrial Park Combined with the Trade Centre can be defined as the basic element of the Sustainable Rural Development. *The Park* can be considered as an element of all national, county and local strategies. The concept regards the smart use of financial, agronomic, veterinary, hydrological, genetic, pedological, technical, technological, viticulture, forestry and other nature resources in order to produce food and services in the rural area.

The constitutive elements of the *Park* can have a variable configuration, being directed to the economic growth sustained at the rural area level.

On the *Park's* surface that can be about 10-20 hectares, distinct functional modules can thus be settled:

- Banking units in order to optimize the flows of capital to generate/regenerate the production and to capitalize the *Park's* achievements;
- Vegetal markets with banks of seeds of great productivity, silos for cereals, food shops, stations for agronomic information;
- Centres for artificial reproduction, slaughter houses, shops for animal products selling, centres for conservation and processing, sector for fishery production capitalization;
- Conferences halls, cultural spaces, centre for information and documentation;
- Hi Tech elements, Internet rooms, servers, dispatchers;
- Reserve generators and modules to produce ecological energy (solar, wind);
- Kindergartens, playgrounds and entertainment areas for kids, swimming pools;
- Parking places and areas to house the vehicles, harnesses and animals;
- Micro-units to produce bio diesel, vegetal oils, sugar, caloric briquettes, etc.;
- Touristic units (motels), cafeterias and/or restaurants;
- Malls and shops for local traditional handicrafts or brands (pottery, weaving, painting, eggs painting, plum brandy production, etc.);
- Park of agricultural machines, technologies and technical means designed for zoo-culture (forestry). Details in Figure no. 1.

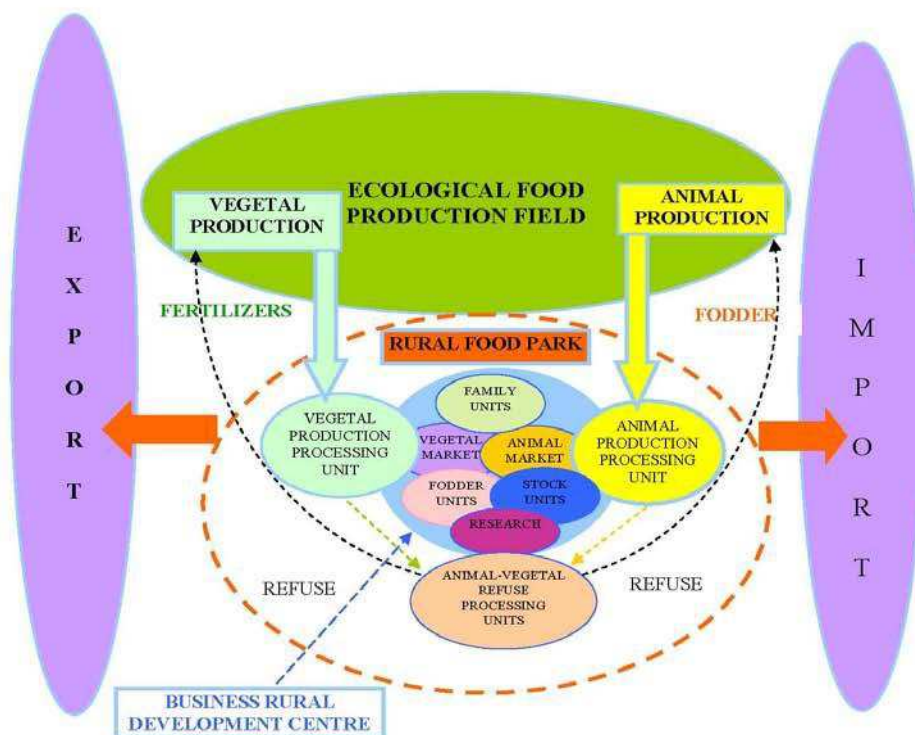


Figure no. 1: Generic view over the elements of the agro-industrial Park (after GNIR)

The *Park* will be the starting point (the interface) for financing production, for picking and capitalizing vegetal and animal funds retaking the yearly cycle of production. If need be, if the conditions allow it, particular forms of the *Park* can be implemented, such as the *Green sheepfold*, *Green farm*, or other distinctive forms. Details in Figure no. 2. With respect to the actualization of materialization forms of the *Park*, other forms can also be identified so as to capitalize the potential of different geographical areas or morph-geographical areas.

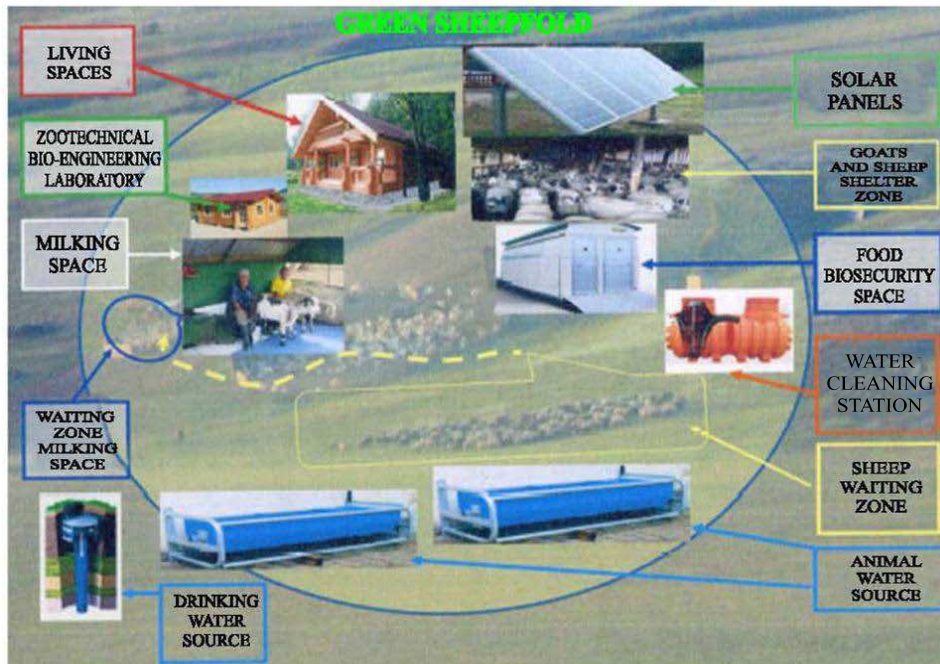


Figure no. 2: Ensemble view of Green Sheepfold (after GNIR)

The implementation of the concept at the national level

At the national level, the project which integrates and enhances the effort specific to the areas with agricultural potential and allows reaching the goals of Sustainable Rural Development is the Romanian Plains Project.

The **Romanian Plains Project** intends to optimize the possibilities to use the pedological-climatic potential of plain forms from Romania in order to produce the maximum vegetal and animal food quantities.

The project's content refers to the implementation of unitary, efficient agro-zoo-technical activity with great ecological results, with ample modern technical-scientific support and the use of biotechnologies, under the conditions of *The Agro-Industrial Park Combined with the Trade Centre*, concomitantly with effective measures of forestation, pedological and irrigations/drains.

The implementation measures should focus on the following objectives:

- To stop the acquisition of agricultural surfaces by the foreign citizens (more than a million hectares are already remised), to stimulate agricultural

entrepreneurship for the efficient use of the territorial fund in order to provide for the family's existence and to capitalize the surplus on the market;

- To extend the associative forms to the entire surface level with the provision of financial, technical, agronomical and zoo-technical support;

- To cease the uncontrolled enlargement of villages producing significant damage to the agricultural surfaces abusively passed to the category of built-up areas, and to scientifically ground a reintegration of the arable surfaces and pastures in the agricultural circuit;

- To improve and maximally use the potential of irrigation by natural fall (Danube, Siret, Olt, Mures, Somes, Jiu, etc.), the use for irrigations and transport of the Bucharest – Danube Canal;

- To develop the infrastructure of roadway, railway communications and telecommunications in the rural area and of modern IT support;

- To combat the enlargement of arid areas (by forestations, irrigations, protective cultures) with the help of acacia and similar plantations, especially in the areas with a risk of desertification (the South of Oltenia, Dobrogea, the Central Moldavian Plateau);

- To extensively use the *Agro-Industrial Park Combined with the Trade Centre* in the standard template and derived forms;

- To modify the agronomic practices by obtaining two crops in rotation on the same soil following the existence of two seasons and the global warmth;

- To include in the production of the breeds and races with enhanced efficiency, the improvement of technology of culture, development and breeds capitalization;

- To permanently survey and to ensure the scientific support of the Romanian Academy for the phases of multi-yearly planning, design, implementation of pilot-projects, interconnected involvement and assessment.

The implementation on the national plan of 4-5 pilot-projects related to the Park is very urgent. The positive results, once publicized and efficiently analyzed, can be a decisive step toward possible future developments.

The Carpathians Mountains Project can aim at the interconnected capitalization of the Carpathian Mountains area potential and the contiguous hills (about 1/3 from the territory) to produce vegetal and animal food especially in the context of global warming. The project must have a complementary approach with the Romanian Plains Project with involvements specific for the hilly and mountainous relief. The grounding elements will situate in the forefront the animal

husbandry, the enlargement of fruit-trees and vineyards cultures, the practical application of grass-lands potential, the forest fruit and mushrooms picking, the participation of apiculture and plants from the spontaneous flora, fishery.

The Delta Danube Project should be structured on the preservation of the bio-diversity specific for this unique area, the enhancement of possible means in order to use the capacities for the fishery production, tourism and entertainment, and also for the production of locally specific vegetal and animal food. The outcomes must bring benefits to the local traditional community isolated by the aquatic environment.

The project must prioritize the unitary agro-zoo-technical activity adequate for the distinctive space of Delta, characterized by a great variety of fishes, but with limitations owed to the vegetation and zoo-culture specific for the area. The accumulations and developments are possible by the advantageous husbandry and exploitation of productive breeds (taurine, bubaline, caballine); precious species of fishes in temporary facilities, aquaponic cultures or hydroponic cultures, the animal husbandry in the natural habitats, reed exploitation, measures to protect the existent ecosystems.

On the whole, the *Sustainable Rural Development* is applicable to the quasi-totality of the national territory by distinct particularized organizational forms producing major economic-social mutations. The concept must be naturally connected to the *Danube River* and the *Black Sea European* geopolitical projects.

The implementation of the concept at county level

The means to implement the priorities imposed by the Sustainable Rural Development is represented by the Sustainable Development Strategy of the county. The document is released by the County Council realistically settling possibilities to exploit the potential of the rural community in the reference time horizons.

The strategy will have as goals, objectives, the means of financing, the forms of implementation of projects, the surface sharing, the means to capitalize and refinance cultures and animal/vegetal production.

Comparatively with the national level measures, in a general, integrated form at county level, the concept's approaches will be realistic, particularized, applied strictly to the possibilities every county has. The realistic *feed-back* of every county possibilities' assessments lead to the correct estimation of national potential over the use of concept.

The implementation of the concept at local level

The administrative space of implementation at local level is represented by the entity of the commune level, dramatically hit by the insufficiency of material resources, social assistance, and dramatic pauperism and characterized by symbolic social protection. The essence of the concept consists in the integral systematic use of pedological-climatic, agro-zoo-technical, social, economic, financial, banking and other nature potential in order to satisfy the needs for food of the country's population, the creation of some substantial surpluses for export.

Food security

The sustainable rural development concept gains special valences when we think about the ever-increasing number of specialists stating that Europe is about to pass into a food crisis.

The food security represents the balance situation when the citizens are protected against dangers induced by the production, preparation, processing and consumption of aliments, the sentiment of trust, peace and comfort induced on the macro-social and individual level. It synthesises the totality of efforts and measures designed to protect the community and the individual against a wide range of risks and threats, among which the use of aliments with toxic content, organic constituents harmful to the health, pesticides and fertilizers.

The food security state is the balance instituted between the risks, threats and dangers against community generated by the usual consumption of vegetal and animal food. Under these circumstances, the bio-economic sciences represent a field of scientific research that approaches the interdependency and evolution of human economy and of natural eco-systems in time and space.

Because of its multiple implications, food security can be evaluated and analyzed on levels of interest, as follows: global, regional, national and local.

The *global food security* represents the balance state instituted by the provision of an optimum of food, in point of quality and diversity, into the global community, with institutions, mechanisms, instruments and processes adequate for the promotion and fulfilment of designated objectives.

At global level, 20% of planet's population consumes 80% from the world's food resources. The nowadays population is about 6.7 billion inhabitants, and can reach up to 8.9 billion in 2050, stabilizing around 9 billions in the perspective of year 2300. The food is not enough for 2/3 of world's population. In case the actual trend of soil fertility continues to decay, corroborated with the same pace of population growth, the deficit of food will become dramatic. That situation will worsen further

when the replicas of the financial crisis will profoundly shake the fragility of the poorest countries economies.

The regional food security supposes the institution of a harmonized system of relations between a number of states on a distinctive geographic surface, characterized by the assumption and respect of some norms unanimously accepted in the mutual exchange of food policies in agreement with the geo-climatic conditions from each state, in order to provide the reaching of own goals in point of food security without damaging other countries' interests, as well as the amiable resolution of the misunderstandings among them.

In the European plan, Romania must do its best to align its production and consumption to the European standards, under the conditions of an efficient attraction and use of European funds.

The national food security represents the supreme expression of national interest. It materializes in the constitution, implementation and maintenance of food policies adequate to the state level, in order to preserve the health state and the harmonized development of population.

The application of *Sustainable Rural Development* concept allows the development of a balanced alimentary consumption in agreement with the traditional national values, the possibility to affirm the culture and spiritual life in universal context, the ensurance of physical health of its country citizens, the surrounding environment protection.

The local food security is accomplished in agreement with the local specificity. It is distinctively materialized on every administrative unit of reference (county, commune, village, farm, individual household).

The food security concept is becoming a national priority which, in the future, is likely to become more important than the energetic security. The food security is the pillar supporting the health state, the harmonized physical development, the wellbeing, the demographic growth, the nation's trust and balance, sheltered from possible risks induced by crises or destabilizing policies.

The concept must be emphasized in the actual context, characterized by the growth of human (food) energetic resources request at global level wherein the climate modifications and natural disasters are amplified by the destabilizing modifications induced by the human activity. In a world with social and political disturbances, we witness the exponential increase of population, with food resources in dynamic diminution.

The steps to be followed in providing the food security aim to:

- elaborate the multi-yearly projects related to food security by the agreement of Power and Opposition, engaging major investments from internal and external sources;
- take inventory of surfaces able to be used in the production of aliments of vegetal and animal nature by reaching the maximum efficiency;
- assert in national emergency regime the programs to combat the arid soils, combined with forestations in network realized on the surfaces with risk of decay or with low vegetative potential;
- develop the national system of irrigations by natural fall by using integrally the potential of the inner rivers network, to rehabilitate the main irrigations canals and the local system of irrigations/drains;
- introduce in the national circuit the *Agro-industrial Park Combined with the Trade Centre* project by the initial implementation of 4-5 projects at every county's level;
- efficiently launch some projects of national range – *the Romanian Plains, the Carpathians Mountains* – to capitalize the excellent pedological-climatic potential to produce the ecological, traditional and diversified food resources;
- impose the coordinated measures to optimize the potential use offered by soil, forests, water surface, inner rivers and Danube Rivers;
- include in the economic circuit the acclimatized breeds and races with an economic potential and increased efficaciousness, with the elimination from production of genetically modified bodies and ones with low efficaciousness;
- build small factories for processing vegetables, fruit-trees, vineyards and fishery basins products, and the modular abattoirs;
- apply viable strategies to produce qualitative wines, traditional plum brandies, natural juices, healthy refreshing drinks, medicines, with the use of atypical cultures possibilities, inclusively the spontaneous flora;
- accelerate the use of modern procedures of production related to aquaculture, hydroponic cultures, etc.

The food security must eliminate from alimentation the elements of risk materialized by genetically modified bodies, chemical substances from the range of conservatives and the enhancers, the toxic elements induced by the packages or inadequate treatments. Also, it must operate efficient elements of control, means of awareness of consumers and firm instruments to sanction those attempting to endanger the population health.

The food security closely interferes with other components of national security, the inputs being part to the system.

Conclusions

The preoccupations related to *Sustainable Rural Development* must be approached in the context of the global warming, the aquifers exhaustion, the drainage and reduction of agricultural surfaces, the exponential increase of global population, the rarefied ozone layer, the increase of planetary ocean level and the flooding of a wide territory used for food production, the preoccupations over the destructive use of meteorological, tectonic etc. weapons. Also, one must consider the possibility of the means related to bioterrorism to compromise the production on huge surfaces, the intended destructive use of medicines, the introduction in the alimentation of genetically modified aliments, the production of unhealthy food, the massive illness or population's mortality growth.

In the same manner, the implementation of policies at the population level in the Romanian villages must be corroborated with the hope of regaining a massive contingent of the country's population. The globalization eases the rapid passing of country's borders by disturbing factors; therefore, Romania can rapidly confront the migration of persons with consequences able to dramatically affect the country's stability. The approaches used for the security dimensions – national, domestic, alimentary, veterinary, agricultural, etc. – must contain pertinent approaches. The gradations on fields of interest must be undergone realistically, connected to the challenges and convulsions of nowadays world.

Romania should produce its own security in order to produce food for its people from own resources, to structure the solid social policies and to ground robust strategies regarding demography and population health. The developments can be and must be approached in an interconnected plan. Under the circumstances in which the underground resources were entirely chartered, the soil's possibilities must be put in the job of basic interests of state and citizen's benefit. The Romanian soil, with a layer of black earth over 20 centimetres, in the situation of a rigorous management, can produce ecological food, diversified and in quantities exceeding their own consumption needs. We appreciate that the implementation of *Sustainable Rural Development* concept must constitute the basic national priority that can bring the intern economic revival along the next 15-25 years. The delay of project's launch with 2-3 years may be similar to a total failure (the agricultural surface will be totally alienated, the soil's decay will be quasi-irreversible, the rural population will reach a

dramatic level of pauperization, the climatic changes will be unpleasant, the rural space will be hard to stabilize). The priority resides from the need for security, food and future scented at survival for almost half of population and from its level of benefit undisputable for the national interest.

The imposition of *Sustainable Rural Development* concept to the food security and to the demographic security in the content of National Security Strategy represents an absolute priority coming from:

- the increase of those components' percentage in the total equation of national security in the future, imposing taking attentive measures in order to decrease the threat from the respective area of responsibility;
- the financial, economic, social and climatic disturbances, unpredictable and very ample as they are, do not admit momentary solutions, but long-term actions;
- the programs and measures from the agro-zoo-technical sector must be analyzed on adequate periods of times, the proposed horizons (25,15, 5 years) being quite reasonable.

Along with the measures regarding the optimization of National Security Strategy content, we consider it necessary to include the *Sustainable Rural Development* concept, as an essential arm to provide food security in absolute priority regime. The implementation of Romanian Plain, Carpathian Mountains, and Danube Delta projects represents major desiderates of balanced development of rural space of the Romania of tomorrow.

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