



**“ION IONESCU DE LA BRAD” UNIVERSITY  
OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND  
VETERINARY MEDICINE OF  
IASI**

# **HABILITATION THESIS**

**The paradigm of  
agriculture – rural development relation**

**DOMAIN - ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT IN  
AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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## **Abstract**

The habilitation thesis is structured on three sections and presents a synthesis of the main scientific and academic results obtained over the teacher and researcher career and also the research directions of the author.

**In the first section** there are presented informations about the professional route of the author and the main scientific and professional achievements.

I followed university studies between 1987-1992 at the Agriculture Faculty within Agronomic Institute “Ion Ionescu de la Brad” from Iasi, now called University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine “Ion Ionescu de la Brad” from Iasi. In the January of 2000 I publicly endorsed the PhD thesis with the subject “The optimization of the structure of the agriculture production by microzones on the Tutovei Hills from Birlad Plateau” under the guidance of the University professor PhD Petru Magazin. I obtained the PhD title in Agriculture and Forestry Sciences, specialization “Management and Marketing in Agriculture”. Currently I am the titular of the following disciplines: Rural Economy – second year of the Economical Engineering in Agriculture specialization; Economical and financial analysis – fourth year of the Economical Engineering in Agriculture specialization and Agricultural policy – first year of Master of the Administration of the agriculture business specialization within University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine “Ion Ionescu de la Brad” from Iasi.

The results obtained from the teaching and researching activity are embodied in 12 speciality books published in publishing house – as author and co-author; 7 speciality books lithographed locally – as author and co-author; manager within three research projects; contributor within 10 research projects; 120 papers published in journals and volumes of some scientific manifestations indexed in other international data base and in other speciality journals - as author or co-author; 11 scientific papers ISI indexed. In the same section are presented the main research directions.

The challenges of the European society in the 2020 horizon are represented by the food safety, sustainable agriculture and bioeconomy. These areas are based on studies on economic efficiency and the results

obtained anticipate the behaviour of the farms to internal factors (the cost, the resources, the technology) and to external factors (price, quality, market, global interests) of the agriculture production (Stefan, G. 2014). Regarding these considerations the researches conducted by the author between 1996 – 2015 include:

- **Economic efficiency of the agriculture production:** the analysis of the relation, production factors – economic efficiency; the analysis of the relation the type of farmer - economic efficiency; the analysis of the relation size of the farm - economic efficiency; the analysis of the farm dimension - economic efficiency;
- **The market and the chain of agrifood:** the competitive advantage and the performance of the market are influenced by the two groups of factors: traditional factors (the market share, the price, the cost, the return, the productivity and the image of the company); new factors (the access to innovation and the speed to use the innovation, the advantage of position in a dominant economic flow, the scale of the company and the financial economy). The traditional determinants of the market performance lose the validity in the conditions of a system crisis sense in which many entrepreneurs are wondering if in present there are or not determinants of the market performance. The answer is “YES” with the explanation that the determinants of the market performance are in a continue moving and they watch after the values changes from the global economy. The relative importance of the new factors it was accentuated by the global economic crisis. Thereby, the factor with the most relative importance for all the companies taken into account was the advantage of position in a dominant economic flow (34,8-40,8%);
- **The paradigm of the agriculture – rural development relation:** by paradigm of the agriculture – rural development relation, we understand to search a “knowledge”, meaning an answer to the question: “is the agriculture the engine of the rural development? The answer is the subject of the researches of the author for the last 10 years in bibliographic and econometric terms, using field studies and own calculations. The conclusion is: the agriculture can be the engine of the rural development with the condition that the innovation is absorbed in the rural economy.

Nowadays the development doesn't mean economical growth, food self-sufficiency, access to technologies. **The development is about the Human.** Economical, the human fights with poverty (deprivation), meaning the

development is the effect of fighting poverty actions. In society, the human tends to create, to choose, to decide, to be responsible, to be free. The crisis of the 2008-2010 proved that the global economy has a new paradigm (considering the speed of dissemination of the economy negative effects). For example, analyzing the economical growth from the European countries over a period of 30 years, it results: 21% is the contribution of the quantitative growth of the classical production factors, while the difference of the 79% is the contribution of the neofactors (Ștefan, G. 2012). Of the total classical factors (100%) the capital participates with approximately 38% and the labour with 62%. The land has no influence. This statement contradicts the conclusions of the classical economic growth patterns. Thereby the economic growth is mainly influenced by the neofactors: entrepreneurship skills – 36%, the innovation and technology - 29%, the information with 23% and other neofactors – 12%. The effect of these mutations leads to the conclusion that currently the main comparative advantage is given by the ability to use the information. The ability to use the information train knowledge. The knowledge provider will be an power center, namely a development factor.

The pillars of the new economy are the discoveries, the inventions and the innovations. The origins of the innovations are within the discoveries. The discovery represents the capacity of a person to see around him something other one doesn't see. Discoveries as such don't have any role in economic development because they are not practical, but they constitute the source of the ideas to invent them. The journey of a discovery towards human utility is through invention. At some point this invention is put into practice and results innovation. The innovation is a pure new creation usable to the human, which influences economic development.

For example, some type of innovations were the alphabet, the citadel, the car. The innovation always generates technical progress and technology because it cause the substitute of the founds. The technical progress generates mechanization, the growth of productivity and the writing of technologies and the last one generates information. The innovation itself doesn't cause economical growth and development, but it causes technical progress. The information is a result of technology and technical progress. By creating new technology, there comes the information which becomes more valuable as it's frequently used by the entrepreneurs. By the entrepreneurial ability to capitalize the information and to obtain new economical products and services they boosts economical growth. The entrepreneur asks questions and offers a new direction to the information that he owns. Thereby he wonders: What if I would replace in this technology this thing? In this moments

he is an information creator and he makes pressure to the discovery which generates inventions and the cycle repeats. In all these points of the innovational cycle there acts one factor particularly important which was ignored by the most of the researchers. This factor is the POWER. Without power none factor cannot be mobilized and made useful to the man such that he can produce economical growth and development. The biggest economies were created by power and until the XX century the power was represented by the force of arms. In the modern era the power is given by the knowledge control and by the information. In the end, the power influence growth, whereas through power is decided if a land is developing or not.

**The second section** is dedicated to the presentation of the evolution plans and the development career in scientific and academic domain. The future research activity will focus on the following directions of interests: economic efficiency of agricultural production, the market and the agri-food chain and the paradigm of the agriculture - rural development relation. The career development in academic area will regard the editing of books and guidelines for practical assessments, the focus and the orientation on the student in the educational activity and the continuously improving the educational process.

**The third section** includes the main bibliographic references which formed the basis for the habilitation thesis.