

ABSTRACT

The doctoral thesis entitled „**STUDIES REGARDING RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ȚIBĂNEȘTI MICROZONE, IAȘI COUNTY**” aims to present the reality of Țibănești Microzone and the level of development of Țibana, Țibănești, Tansa and Dagîța Communes, as they are perceived by the local population. The purpose of this thesis is also to describe proposals related to measures for the implementation of local development strategies in each commune and for the implementation of a global development strategy in an agricultural farm from the studied area.

The thesis is divided into two parts: a theoretical part described in the first chapter and a part presenting the own researches, detailed in five chapters. The thesis comprises also an abstract, an introduction and the bibliography.

The first part presents *the bibliographical study in the field of rural development*, described within the first chapter entitled „**Bibliographic Study regarding the rural development abroad and in Romania**”. There are detailed aspects related to the definition, structure and functions of the rural space, with emphasis on the features of the Romanian rural space, compared to the rural space from the European Union.

The rural development represents a symbol of the society. A short presentation of the rural development is included in the second subchapter. There are presented aspects regarding the historical evolution, the rural development policies, the rural development regions from Romania and the indicators of rural development level in Romania.

Due to the fact that the studied area belongs to the North-Eastern Development Region and many features and problems of the region are characteristic to Țibănești Microzone, I considered as appropriate to present some aspects of the North-Eastern Development Region, such as: the analysis of social and economic indicators, the analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, respectively opportunities and possible threats. All these aspects represent the basis for elaborating the strategy of the development region.

In the *second part* entitled “**Results obtained and their interpretation**”, there are presented my own researches performed in Țibănești Microzone, Iași County.

In the **second chapter** entitled “**Research aim, objectives and method**” there are presented the research aim and objectives, with emphasis on the research methods and tools.

The methodological system consisted in data collecting and processing, the analysis of results and formulating of conclusions and proposals, through specific methods and procedures, such as: the S.W.O.T. analysis, the sociological investigation based on questionnaire, the comparison, analysis of specific indicators etc.

The main objectives have taken into account the following issues:

- ❖ *analysis of the main agricultural products obtained in this zone, taking into account that the agriculture represents the main economic branch;*
- ❖ *analysis of investments made in the last period related to the technical substructure of the microzone, from the viewpoint of benefits for the local community, respectively of their impact on the environment;*
- ❖ *performing an investigation based on written questionnaire in view to highlight the positive and negative aspects regarding the level of technical equipment of the locality and the social priority, as they are perceived by the inhabitants of Țibănești locality;*
- ❖ *formulating the recommendations concerning the objectives and the measures of local development strategy;*
- ❖ *analysis of an agricultural farm within the frame of Țibănești Microzone and elaboration of the global development strategy of the studied agricultural unit;*

These aspects have been studied systematically and the results are presented by different methods, such as: the monographic method, the diagnosis analysis, the comparison method and the specific indicators method).

In the third chapter entitled „**Natural, social and economic conditions of Țibănești Microzone, Iași County**”, there are presented the following aspects: the delimitation and the geographic position of the studied area, the natural conditions, namely the climate, the relief, the soil, the vegetation and the fauna which characterize this area. In the last part of the chapter, there are briefly presented the four communes which belong to Țibănești Microzone.

The major investments made in each commune consist in:

- a) **„Water supply in Țibana, Gîrbești, Poiana Mănăstirii, Alexeni and Moara Ciornei villages, Țibana Commune, Iași County”.**
- b) **„Introducing of potable water supply in Tansa and Suhuleț villages from Tansa Commune and Jigoreni and Văleni villages from Țibănești Commune, Iași County”**
- c) **„Extension of the water supply network, setting up of drainage network and waste water treatment plant for Suhuleț and Tansa villages, Tansa Commune, Iași County;**
- d) **„Water supply in centralised system in Dagîța and Mănăstirea villages, Dagîța Commune, Iași County and setting up of drainage system and waste water treatment plant in Dagîța village” (first investment) and „Modernisation of the communal road DC 73A between Dagîța village from Iași County and Poienari village, Neamț County (second investment)”.**

The investment objectives concerning water supply *don't produce a significant impact on the environment*, but they have *a positive impact in improving the access to utilities, improving the living standards of community members and the social and economic development of the microzone.*

The positive impact on local community is very significant, due to the modernisation of the communal road. The inhabitants benefit of a comfortable and civilized transportation all seasons, by facilitating the vehicles access and the diminution of fuel consumption. All these benefits lead to the improvement of living standard, civilization and social and economic development of localities and can attract investors.

In the chapter V **„Strategy of rural development in Țibănești Microzone, Iași County”**, in the first part, there are presented the strategy importance, outlining the aspects which concern the strategy concept, typology, objectives and measures. If we think to the history, we can declare that *there was and there is always a strategic thinking in every field and at any time.*

The chapter continues with the presentation of *a case study* that I performed based on statistical investigation with *written questionnaire*, which was given to 50 persons from different social environments, who were residents in *Țibănești locality*. The purpose of this study was to establish the economic and social level of the population, the social substructure, respectively the priorities within the frame of the investments proposed in Țibănești Microzone, taking into consideration the following aspects: *the number of family members, the administrative space of houses, the monthly average income, the agricultural surface own by the interviewed persons and the property degree of land division, the agricultural products sale, the possibility to get financial aids in rural area, the locality substructure, the social component and the technical equipment, the*

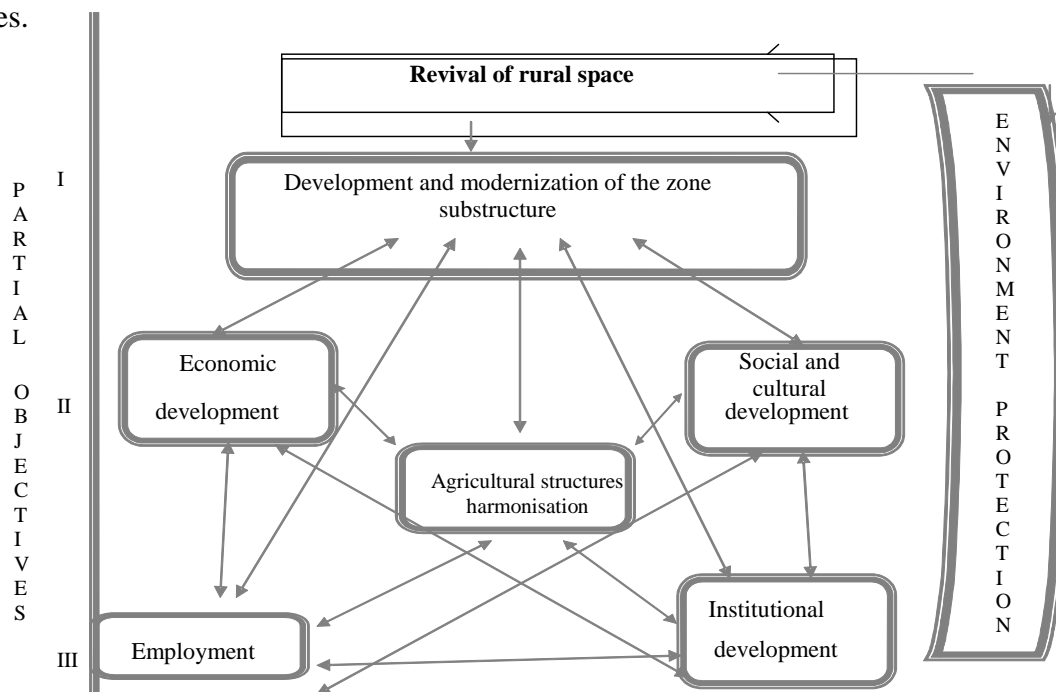
appreciations concerning the proposal that Țibănești Commune became transformed into a town, the civic participation of inhabitants to new initiatives.

After data processing and analysis, a clear conclusion is that the studied microzone is quite poor, but with real development potential and as regards to the social component, the conclusion is that the population is aware of the importance of accessing programmes with European funding. If the inhabitants don't succeed to take advantage of the chance of funding grants and they don't implement programmes to stimulate the development of their rural environment, they will observe in the future that the economic, social and technical components will remain at the same level or they will decrease.

The regional priorities and measures which will be taken related to the implementing of strategic objectives will have to take into account **the strengths, the weaknesses, the opportunities and the threats**, which are presented in the *S.W.O.T. analysis* of the territory, population and economic activity in Țibănești Microzone.

The rural development model for the studied area takes into consideration the features and opportunities resulted from the multidisciplinary analysis performed with the purpose of the general objective, namely *the revival and efficiency of the studied area*.

I consider that this major objective can be achieved by elaborating and implementing of a strategy based on a set of integrated measures, which follow up the achievement of partial objectives.



Development strategy objectives in Țibănești Microzone, Iași County

The perspectives regarding the measures and objectives of the local rural development strategy concern *the substructure development and modernisation, the economic development, the social and cultural development and the agricultural structures harmonisation in Țibănești Microzone*.

The second case study aimed to elaborate a development strategy of the company ZOOCERCOM Agricultural Society, Țibana, which is an economic unit situated in the Țibănești Microzone.

The company analysis outlined aspects regarding the directions of activity, the natural conditions, and the cultivated surfaces in 2007 – 2009 period, the average yields and the financial indicators according to the annual balance sheets.

ZOOCERCOM Țibana Agricultural Society registered profit at the end of each accounting period during the studied period. The surplus registered small values during the studied period, having a light increase in the year 2009, but a decrease of about 27 % in 2008 compared to the value in 2007.

The company strategy for the next period should induce the progressive increase of the turnover, to give the possibility to pay all credits contracted and to purchase new agricultural equipment.

The company ZOOCERCOM Țibana will have **to approach a global development strategy** to take into account *the strengths and the weaknesses from Țibănești Microzone*, respectively *to benefit by the microzone opportunities and to minimize the negative effect of possible threats*.

The main strategic objectives proposed to be implemented by the company in the next period, are as follows:

- extension of the company's total surface of arable land to be cultivated;
- introduction of new high productivity cultures;
- orientation toward organic farming, environmentally sustainable and friendly;
- diversifying of the agricultural activity by production processing (wheat and corn yield transformation and product sale as goods);
- setting up of partnership contracts with suppliers and clients in the most favourable financial terms;
- purchase of new agricultural equipment;
- upgrade of the storage spaces;

- accessing funding grants by elaboration and implementation of projects aiming activity extension, modernisation and diversification of the studied company.

This strategy can be also implemented in other companies from the studied area, depending on the specific activity of each company.

The **impact** on the **local community**, concerning the development strategy implementation in agricultural farms from Țibănești Microzone, **will generate favourable effects** for its inhabitants, inducing an increase of their quality of life, due to creating of new work places.

Moreover, the global strategies of increasing the agricultural farms will have to be correlated with the strategies of local development, aiming an impact with **positive effects on the environment**.

The rural space from Țibănești Microzone needs a competitive multifunctional agriculture and complementary to other services.

The studied area requires a modern substructure correlated to the actual needs of the communities' life in the component villages and to the economic activity in the microzone.

The chapter VI presents the main conclusions and recommendations as a result of the research carried out.