

SUMMARY

This doctoral thesis analyzes the impact of agricultural transformations on rural families in Romania after 1990, with a focus on the effects of the three major post-communist reforms: the Land Fund Law no. 18/1991, Law no. 1/2000 on the restoration of property rights over agricultural and forest lands, and the country's accession to the European Union. The research findings highlight the excessive fragmentation of land ownership, the persistence of subsistence agriculture, and the challenges of integration into the market economy. The peasant household remains the basic economic unit in rural areas, yet it is increasingly vulnerable to demographic and structural pressures.

The empirical research, based on a questionnaire applied to rural families, reveals that migration and population aging diminish the labor capacity of households, while limited access to financing and agricultural markets perpetuates inequalities. At the same time, European agricultural policies and funding programs (SAPARD, PNDR) have had a positive impact on infrastructure and local economic diversification, contributing to income stabilization in some communities.

The main conclusions emphasize the need for coherent policies to support family farms, promote voluntary land consolidation, and integrate young people into agriculture. The peasant household can remain a pillar of sustainable development only through investment in human capital, infrastructure, and a rethinking of the relationship between agriculture, family, and community.

Keywords: reforms, rural families, peasant household