ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF MARKETING AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS FROM FAMILY FARMS. CASE STUDY.

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Keywords: family farm, valorization of agri-food products, alternative marketing methods, online trade, Romania, Giurgiu county.

This doctoral thesis aimed to identify alternative ways of marketing agri-food products from family farms.

The first part included the qualitative analysis in which the context was described, starting from the definition of the term family farm and continuing with an analysis of agricultural structures in the European Union (EU) and in Romania. This analysis illustrated, through descriptive and graphical methods, what the trends were in terms of agricultural holdings. The results indicated that there are large gaps in agricultural holdings across EU-27 countries.

The second part of the doctoral thesis included quantitative research, which was based on the analysis of statistical indicators (average, standard deviation, coefficient of variation and annual growth rate) at the level of the period 2013-2022, in order to analyze the agricultural potential of Giurgiu County.

The third part of the doctoral thesis also included the quantitative research, which was based on the analysis of the data resulting from the application of the two questionnaires carried out with the aim of identifying alternative ways of marketing agri-food products from family farms. The first questionnaire, applied to a sample of 262 consumers from Giurgiu county, showed a conservative tendency of them regarding the ways of buying agri-food products from family farms. Likewise, the second questionnaire, applied to a sample of 165 family farms in Giurgiu county, showed the same conservative tendency of farmers. Among the marketing methods preferred by family farmers were: selling at the farm gate, selling in agri-food markets and selling to intermediaries. Starting from the conclusions of the two case studies, alternative ways of marketing agri-food products from family farms were proposed.