

SUMMARY

of the doctoral thesis entitled:

RESEARCH ON STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS WITHIN SUPPLY CHAINS

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Keywords : farmer; agricultural holding; farm; agri-food supply chain; agri-food sectors; agri-food markets; sustainable development.

The paper addresses a topical topic in the context of profound transformations in the European agri-food sector, analyzing the ways in which the position of farmers can be strengthened within supply chains.

The conceptual framework of the thesis delimits fundamental notions such as farmers, agricultural holdings, agri-food supply chains and value chains, allowing for a rigorous comparative analysis of them.

An element of originality is the development of a theoretical model for evaluating the impact of short food chains on agri-food chains. The applied dimension of the work is strengthened by conducting a sociological survey on a representative sample of respondents, investigating the behavior of Romanian consumers of agri-food products. The statistical analysis, using statistical tests, demonstrates that variables such as education level, residence environment and income distinctly influence consumer behavior and implicitly the consolidation of farmers' position on supply chains. At the same time, the research emphasizes the importance of cooperatives and digital platforms as multipliers of bargaining power and vectors of transparency of market relations.

The conclusions and proposals formulated confirm the need to accelerate the digitalization process, to support short chains through dedicated financial and legislative instruments, as well as to stimulate partnerships between farmers, consumers and local institutions. Thus, the premises are created for the transition towards a fairer, more transparent and more resilient agri-food system, capable of responding not only to market demands, but also to European strategic objectives regarding food security and environmental protection.

