

Abstract

The habilitation thesis entitled "Researches on the Sustainable Development of the Rural Area through the Practice of Beekeeping and Other Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Activities" synthetically outlines the scientific and professional achievements subsequent to the PhD thesis defense on November 25th 2008, as well as career development and evolution prospects and it is thus divided into three sections.

The first section presents the main disciplinary and interdisciplinary research directions underlying the elaboration of the thesis, namely: **(1)** The analysis of the apicultural sector and its improvement in order to revitalize the Romanian rural area; **(2)** Comparative analysis of honey production and international honey trade in Romania, Serbia and Italy; and **(3)** Research on the sustainable development of rural areas through other specific agricultural and non-agricultural activities.

Chapter 2.1 "Analysis of the beekeeping sector and its improvement in order to revitalize the Romanian rural area" primarily tackles the importance of studying the agri-food chains, focusing on the analysis of the beekeeping sector in the North West Development Region of Romania as well as on the results of the study on the consumption behavior of honey and other apicultural products, as key analysis elements. The original studies presented in this chapter rely on the scientific results of two research projects, with references to relevant publications. The first project - "Technical and economic analysis of beekeeping in the North West Region of Romania towards sustainable development in apiculture" – covered the 2010-2012 period. Within this framework, a macro and microeconomic
