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INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION-DRIVEN RESILIENCE OF ROMANIA'S SHEEP FARMING SECTOR AMID CONTEMPORARY GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES IN UKRAINE

Abstract

The current operating environment of the agro-industrial complex in Eastern European countries is characterised by significant transformations driven both by internal economic processes and by external geopolitical challenges. One of the key influencing factors has been the full-scale war in Ukraine, which has substantially disrupted the traditional logistical supply chains for agricultural products, in particular grain and feed components.

Under these circumstances, Romania, as a European Union Member State possessing considerable agricultural potential and an advantageous geographical location, plays an important role in ensuring the transit of Ukrainian agricultural produce. At the same time, this places an additional burden on its domestic infrastructure and underscores the need to develop its own processing capacity, particularly in the field of compound feed production.

The development of compound feed production for sheep farming, which constitutes a traditional and strategically important branch of Romanian animal husbandry, is therefore of particular relevance. In this context, investment in the construction of a modern compound feed plant for sheep in Romania would make it possible to enhance the efficiency of the sector, ensure the stability of the feed base, and strengthen regional agri-food links, including cooperation with Ukraine.

The article substantiates the feasibility of constructing a compound feed plant for sheep in Romania. An analysis of the country's agro-industrial sector is carried out, the current state and problems of sheep farming are examined, and a review of the most popular sheep breeds in Romania is provided. It is established that, despite Romania's considerable agricultural potential and the well-developed state of its sheep farming sector, the country has an insufficient level of compound feed industry development. It is demonstrated that the establishment of a modern compound feed enterprise will contribute to enhancing the efficiency of sheep farming, reducing import dependence, and strengthening Ukrainian-Romanian economic cooperation. Such a project may also have significant socio-economic importance both for the national economy and for Ukrainian citizens temporarily residing in the country. Implementation of the project will contribute to the creation of new jobs both during the construction phase of the enterprise and in the course of its subsequent operation.

Keywords: *sheep farming, compound feed, production, sheep breeds, agro-industrial complex, Romania, Ukraine, logistics, geopolitical challenges, Ukrainian refugees.*

Introduction. The industrial compound feed production sector represents one of the important and dynamic branches of the agro-industrial complex, characterised by moderate yet stable growth rates over recent years. This trend is driven by the increasing demand of livestock farms for high-quality and technologically balanced feeds capable of ensuring high animal productivity and meeting contemporary quality and safety requirements.

The European Union (EU) accounts for approximately 13 % of global compound feed production, which confirms the region's substantial significance within the global structure of the feed industry. At the same time, a temporary decline in production volumes was observed in 2020, primarily associated with the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU and the corresponding exclusion of its production figures from overall EU statistics.

Notwithstanding these structural changes, the level of consumption of animal-origin products in EU countries has remained relatively stable, whereas exports of livestock products to third countries have continued to demonstrate a positive growth dynamic.

Over the past 25 years, the rate of growth in feed resource costs has significantly exceeded the rate of growth in selling prices for livestock products, as confirmed by statistical data. This trend points to an increasing economic burden on producers of livestock products and creates a constant pressure to enhance industry productivity. In turn, this stimulates compound feed producers to develop and implement more efficient, balanced and economically substantiated feed solutions [2].

Additional impacts on the functioning of the EU livestock sector have arisen from global crisis factors, among which the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the aggravation of the geopolitical situation occupy a prominent place. Particularly

significant changes have been brought about by the full-scale war in Ukraine, which has led to disruptions in international logistical chains, instability in raw-material supplies, fluctuations in grain prices, and increased risks to the functioning of agri-food markets [3].

In 2023, the EU compound feed market operated under conditions of considerable political, economic and market pressure, associated with the need to respond to crisis phenomena and ensure the sustainable development of the feed industry. The search for efficient and resilient feed solutions capable of adapting to rapid changes in market conditions and to new regulatory requirements has acquired particular relevance.

The formation of contemporary industry development trends is largely conditioned by the adverse impact of climate change, in particular the increased frequency of droughts, floods and other extreme weather events. Additional risk factors include the spread of infectious animal diseases, instability in raw-material supplies and difficulties in the functioning of the livestock sector. The outbreaks of avian influenza and African swine fever have exerted a significant impact on the market, leading to a reduction in livestock numbers and changes in the structure of production.

In addition, the state policy of certain EU countries aimed at the implementation of environmental objectives – in particular the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the strengthening of controls on nitrate emissions in agriculture – plays an important role in transforming the market.

As regards the prospects for the compound feed market in 2024, the situation remains complex and is characterised by a high degree of uncertainty. Market conditions continue to be affected by the spread of animal diseases, macroeconomic instability, rising food price inflation, unfavourable weather conditions, and shifts in international trade flows caused by the complex geopolitical situation in Ukraine [1].

Among EU Member States, Romania has acquired particular strategic significance in ensuring the transit of Ukrainian agricultural produce and feed raw materials following the outbreak of the full-scale war in Ukraine. The disruption of traditional export routes through Black Sea ports has necessitated the search for alternative logistical pathways, as a result of which Romanian transport infrastructure has become one of the key elements in the functioning of the region's agri-food chains. In this connection, investment in the construction of a modern compound feed plant for sheep in Romania may not only foster the development of the local feed industry but also contribute to optimising the processing, transportation and use of Ukrainian raw materials, thereby further strengthening economic cooperation between the two States.

Favourable natural and climatic conditions, advantageous geographical location, diverse relief, and substantial areas of natural pastures constitute the prerequisites for the development of sheep farming as one of the traditional branches of Romanian animal husbandry. Historically, sheep breeding has held an important place within the country's agricultural production structure and is an integral component of its agricultural traditions.

An important factor in the development of the sector is its orientation towards external sales markets, particularly countries outside the EU. The expansion of export activities creates additional opportunities for increasing the profitability of sheep-farming enterprises and stimulates production development. For this reason, starting from 2017, the development of sheep farming has been included among the priority directions of Romania's State policy, which has had a positive effect on the dynamics of the livestock population.

The competitive advantages of the sector include the high quality and diversity of sheep-farming products, the comparatively lower costs of animal maintenance relative to other types of livestock production, and the historically established traditions of farming. A further increase in sheep numbers may not only meet the country's domestic needs but also strengthen the sector's export potential, generating additional economic advantages for Romanian producers [4].

Purpose of the work. The purpose of this article is to investigate the state and prospects of the sheep farming sector in Romania and to provide a scientific and practical substantiation of the need to invest in the construction of a compound feed plant for sheep in Romania with a view to strengthening Ukrainian-Romanian economic cooperation.

Results and discussion. Presentation of the main research material. Romania traditionally belongs to the group of States possessing substantial agricultural potential and occupies an important place within the European agricultural system. The country's natural and climatic conditions, fertile soils and favourable temperature regime provide the prerequisites for the successful development of both crop production and animal husbandry. The agricultural sector constitutes one of the fundamental components of the national economy, ensuring the production of material goods and shaping the State's food security.

A distinctive feature of the country's territorial structure is the considerable share of rural areas. Within the country's total territory they account for approximately 87 %, including administrative units such as communes together with their adjacent settlements. At the same time, the country's territory is characterised by a relatively even geographical distribution of natural zones: approximately one-third is occupied by lowland areas at altitudes of up to 300 m, more than one-third consists of hilly areas, and approximately 30 % comprises mountainous terrain.

Among the EU Member States, Romania belongs to those countries with the most pronounced agricultural specialisation. The total area of its territory amounts to approximately 238 thousand km², of which almost 15 million hectares are used as agricultural land. Arable land occupies more than 9 million hectares, which enables the country to concentrate considerable agricultural potential. In terms of the number of farms, Romania accounts for approximately one-third of the total number among EU countries. This creates prospects for strengthening the country's position as one of the leading producers of agricultural products in the Central European region.

The agricultural sector plays a significant role in shaping the country's economy, accounting for approximately 5 % of the gross domestic product. Furthermore, almost one-third of the economically active population is employed in agricultural activities.

It is important to note that approximately two-thirds of the country's territory is used for agricultural purposes, and nearly half of the population resides in rural areas [7].

In the structure of agricultural production, crop production prevails, accounting for approximately 70 %. Animal husbandry accounts for nearly one-third of total production (Fig. 1), whereas agricultural services constitute a small share [9].

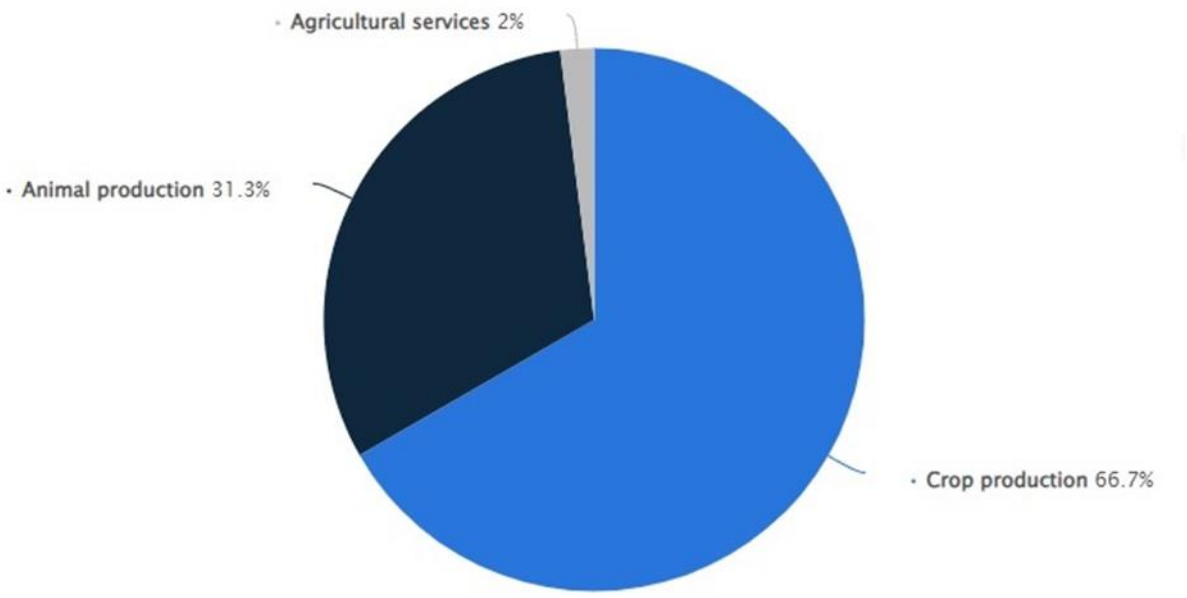

Fig. 1. **Structure of agricultural production in Romania in 2022 [9].**

The principal types of agricultural products produced in the country are cereal crops, in particular wheat, maize and barley, as well as sunflower, potatoes, grapes and sugar beet. In the livestock sector, the production of pork, poultry products, milk, wool and eggs is of considerable importance.

In terms of livestock numbers, Romania is among the leading EU Member States. According to statistical data, the country ranks fifth among EU States in terms of overall livestock indicators [7].

Sheep farming occupies a special place within the structure of livestock production. Romania possesses considerable prospects for its development owing to favourable natural conditions and historically established farming traditions. An analysis of the sector's development dynamics demonstrates the changes in the numbers of sheep and goats over various years. The highest figure for sheep numbers was recorded in 2019 and exceeded 10 million head.

According to statistical estimates, in 2019 Romania ranked third among EU Member States in terms of the number of sheep and goats, while by 2021 it had risen to second place in terms of sheep numbers, surpassed only by Spain. The Romanian flock accounted for approximately 17 % of the total EU figure. In terms of goat numbers, the country is also among the top three leaders [10].

The country's compound feed industry merits separate attention. According to sectoral research estimates, the volume of the compound feed production market in Romania (Fig. 2) reached EUR 432.7 million in 2024 [6].

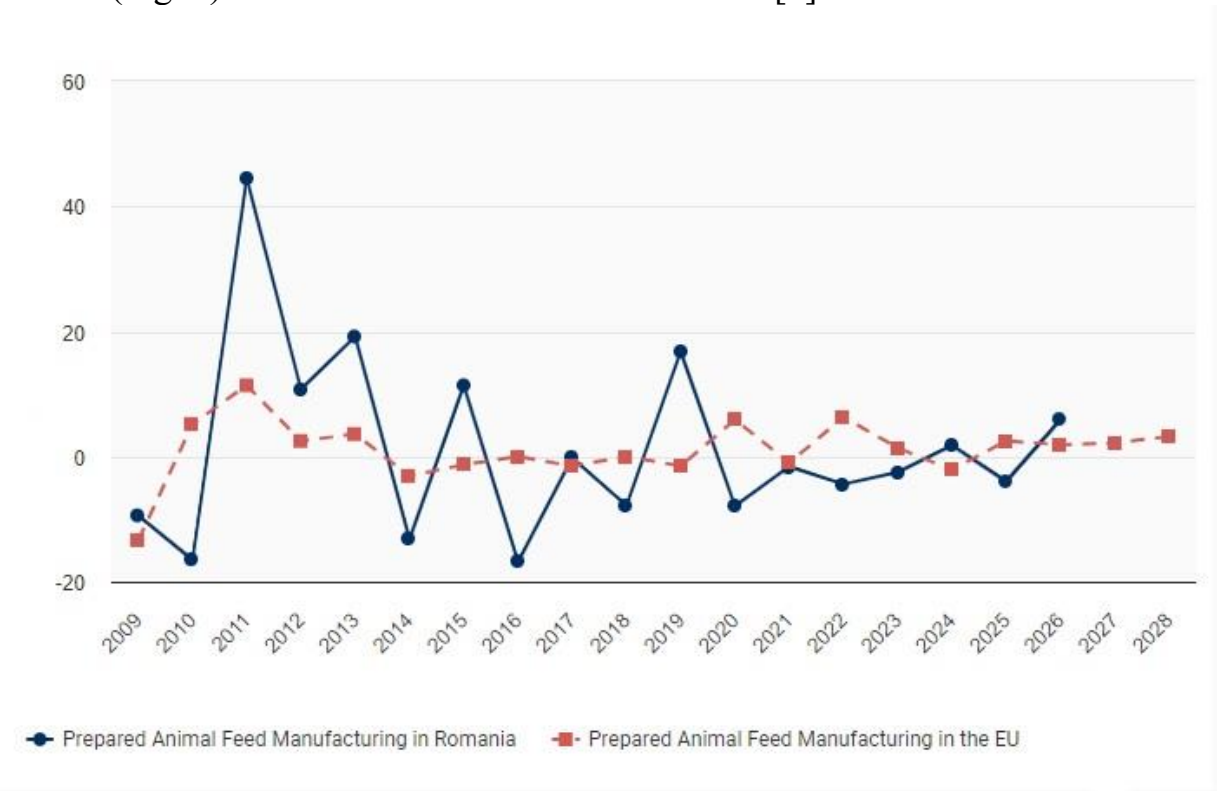

Fig. 2. **Compound feed production in Romania and the EU [6].**

At the same time, in recent years a trend has been observed towards a slight reduction in production volumes. In the ranking of European countries by compound feed industry revenue, Romania occupies 16th place (Table 1), maintaining stable positions since 2019 [6].

Table 1

Ranking of EU countries by compound feed industry revenue [6]

Rank	Country	Industry revenue
1	Spain	15.3 billion EUR
2	Netherlands	10.9 billion EUR
3	France	9.5 billion EUR
4	Poland	7.8 billion EUR
5	Italy	5.6 billion EUR
6	Belgium	5.1 billion EUR
7	Denmark	4.1 billion EUR

8	Czech Republic	2.3 billion EUR
9	Portugal	1.9 billion EUR
10	Hungary	1.8 billion EUR
11	Austria	1.8 billion EUR
12	Greece	973.5 million EUR
13	Lithuania	758.2 million EUR
14	Sweden	755.4 million EUR
15	Finland	581.2 million EUR
16	Romania	432.7 million EUR
17	Bulgaria	328.2 million EUR
18	Slovakia	220.0 million EUR
19	Cyprus	188.1 million EUR
20	Slovenia	178.2 million EUR
21	Estonia	169.6 million EUR
22	Croatia	120.6 million EUR
23	Latvia	63.8 million EUR

Approximately 189 enterprises operate in the country, engaged in the production of compound feed products. In recent years, the number of producers has demonstrated a slight but stable upward trend [6].

Following the outbreak of the full-scale war in Ukraine, Romania has substantially strengthened its importance as a logistical hub for the transportation of Ukrainian agricultural produce. Its access to the Black Sea and well-developed Danube transport routes have established it as one of the key transit centres for the export of grain and oilseed crops. In order to increase the throughput capacity of the transport system, infrastructure modernisation has been carried out, staffing of border services has been expanded, and customs clearance procedures have been simplified.

An additional stimulus for the development of the agro-industrial complex has been the adoption of Romania's National Strategic Plan for 2023-2027, which provides for enhancing the economic resilience of farms and strengthening the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. The total funding for the programme exceeds USD 16 billion.

Despite its substantial agricultural potential, Romania continues to be a net importer of food products. In recent years, the growth rate of imports has exceeded that

of exports – imports increased by 16 % (Table 2), whereas exports grew by only 11.5 %, which is attributable to declining yields of certain crops and increased competition from other Black Sea region countries [8].

Table 2

Total trade volume of agricultural products in Romania (2018-2022) [8]

Indicator	Year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Agricultural imports, million USD	9.015	9.433	10.200	12.026	13.923
Agricultural exports, million USD	7.655	8.029	7.982	11.294	12.600
Agricultural trade deficit, million USD	-1.360	-1.404	-2,218	-732	-1.323

In view of the foregoing, the development of compound feed production for the needs of sheep farming may be regarded as one of the promising directions for strengthening food security and supporting regional development. The implementation of such investment projects will contribute not only to reducing dependence on imported products but also to deepening economic cooperation between Ukraine and Romania, particularly in the context of the transformation of logistical chains brought about by the war.

Contemporary mechanisms of State support should also be taken into account. In particular, the Romanian Government has launched the 'Investalim' programme, aimed at modernising food industry enterprises and stimulating domestic production. The total budget of the programme amounts to approximately EUR 600 million for the period 2023-2026. The financing instruments envisaged make it possible to support the establishment of new production capacities, the modernisation of existing enterprises and the development of the compound feed industry [5].

An analysis of the territorial distribution of livestock farms indicates a concentration of the principal production capacities in the Carpathian foothills and the Transylvanian Plateau. Taking into account the raw material base, logistical advantages, and the concentration of livestock production, the Transylvanian region may be regarded as the most suitable territory for the implementation of prospective projects in the field of compound feed production [11].

An analysis carried out of the most popular sheep breeds used in Romania has shown that the sector is based on both autochthonous breeds – in particular Tsurcana and Tsigai – and selectively improved breeds, namely Merinos de Palas, Transylvanian Merino and Karakul.

It has been established that the basis of the breed structure of Romanian sheep farming consists of local and selectively improved sheep breeds. The most widespread

is the Tsurcana breed, also referred to as Zackel ('mountain peasant', 'Romanian'). The share of this breed in the structure of the flock has increased over recent decades from 40 % to 60 %. The number of head of this breed in the country exceeds 6 million. Its popularity is attributable to its high adaptability to demanding mountain conditions, resistance to diseases, and undemanding nature in terms of feed resources. The live weight of rams ranges from 60 to 80 kg, that of ewes from 40 to 55 kg, and the average milk yield reaches 100-140 kg of milk per lactation of approximately 220 days. The milk is characterised by a high fat and protein content, which makes it a valuable raw material for cheese production (Table 3) [13, 17].

Table 3

Productivity of the most popular Romanian sheep breeds [13-18]]

Breed	**Milk productivity, liters**	**Fat, %**	**Protein, %**	**Total solids, %**
Tsurcana	100…140	7.7	6.0	16.65
Tsigai	70…90	7.0	6.5	15.02
Merinos	85…95	7.4	6.3	13.49

The second most widespread is the Tsigai breed, which accounts for 24.3 % of the total sheep flock in the country. Under current conditions, its productive orientation has shifted from a wool-bearing to a combined dairy-meat purpose. Milk yield ranges from 70 to 90 L, with individual animals capable of producing up to 248 kg per lactation. The live weight of adult animals ranges from 79 to 90 kg [14-17].

Merino breeds are of significant importance for the development of the sector. The Merinos de Palas belongs to the most highly improved breeds in Romania and is used for enhancing the productive qualities of other populations. The live weight of rams of this breed reaches 99-105 kg, while wool yield is 12 kg, which represents one of the highest indicators among local breeds. At the same time, the Transylvanian Merino is characterised by high wool productivity, good meat efficiency, and a high level of adaptation to the natural and climatic conditions of the Carpathian region [17-18].

A special place within the structure of sheep farming is occupied by the Karakul breed, which is distinguished by specific productivity and biological characteristics. It is well-adapted to arid conditions and is capable of withstanding temperatures exceeding 50 °C. The live weight of rams is 55-65 kg, and the milk yield of ewes is 40-50 kg. The principal value of the breed lies in the production of high-quality pelts and coarse wool, with a yield of 2-3 kg per animal [19-20].

The results obtained demonstrate that the considerable breed diversity, high adaptive properties of animals and their productive characteristics constitute the prerequisites for the further development of Romanian sheep farming. The existence of a substantial flock, specialised breeds, and prospects for sectoral development

creates objective preconditions for investment in the development of the feed base, the modernisation of feeding technologies, and the establishment of modern compound feed production facilities to meet the needs of the sector.

However, notwithstanding the substantial potential and centuries-old traditions of sheep farming, the sector in Romania faces a number of systemic problems that constrain its further development and reduce its competitiveness within the European agricultural sector.

One of the principal problems is the gradual reduction in the area of natural pastures, which is associated with land development, changes in land-use patterns, and increased anthropogenic pressure. The reduction in fodder lands has a negative impact on the possibilities for extensive sheep keeping, which has traditionally formed the basis of Romanian sheep farming, particularly in mountainous and foothill regions.

Another significant constraint is the insufficient level of development of production and transport infrastructure. In many regions, particularly in mountainous areas, there is limited access to modern transport routes, product storage facilities, wool warehouses, and specialised equipment for animal keeping and servicing. This complicates logistical processes and increases production costs.

An additional challenge is presented by high competition from other branches of agriculture, primarily crop production, which often has higher profitability and greater levels of State support. As a result, competition for land resources, investments, and financial subsidies is intensifying, which has a negative impact on the pace of sheep farming development.

The insufficient level of technological modernisation of the sector likewise remains a pressing problem. In many farms, outdated methods of animal rearing and feeding are employed, while the implementation of modern breeding programmes, automated management systems and innovative feed production technologies is limited. This leads to a reduction in animal productivity and the economic efficiency of production.

In addition, the gradual decline in interest among young people in working in the agricultural sector has a negative impact on the prospects for the sector's development. Migration processes and the outflow of young people to cities or to other EU countries are creating a shortage of qualified personnel in rural areas, which poses additional risks to the sustainable functioning of sheep farms in the future.

Addressing the current problems of sheep farming development in Romania requires a comprehensive approach involving cooperation among State authorities, scientific institutions, producers and investors. One of the key directions for ensuring the sector's sustainable functioning is the preservation of natural pastures, which form the basis of the feed base for extensive sheep farming. In this context, improvements to land-use legislation, the implementation of environmental protection programmes, and the introduction of effective landscape planning are of considerable importance.

An important factor in enhancing the sector's efficiency is the development of production and transport infrastructure. Investments in the construction of modern roads, water supply systems, storage facilities, wool warehouses, and product

processing facilities will contribute to improving farming conditions, reducing logistical costs, and enhancing producers' competitiveness.

State support for sheep farms plays a particularly important role in the development of the sector. The implementation of subsidy programmes, the provision of advisory assistance, the organisation of professional training, and the introduction of modern management methods may substantially enhance production productivity and the economic efficiency of enterprises.

Another promising direction is the stimulation of innovative development in sheep farming. The introduction of modern breeding programmes, the improvement of the genetic potential of animals, the automation of production processes, the digitalisation of farm management, and the application of modern phase-feeding technologies will make it possible to enhance animal productivity and improve product quality. In this respect, the development of the compound feed industry, which provides a stable and balanced feed base for the sector, acquires particular importance.

An equally important direction is the engagement of young people in the agricultural sector. Educational programmes, vocational training, internships, and financial support for young farmers may contribute to the formation of a new generation of specialists in sheep farming and ensure the long-term stability of rural areas.

At the present stage, a State policy aimed at stimulating the development of sheep farming as an important component of the country's agricultural sector is being implemented in Romania. The principal aim is to ensure stable incomes for producers, to enhance the level of food security, and to preserve the national traditions historically associated with sheep farming [10-12].

In the context of the full-scale war in Ukraine, not only the economic but also the social aspect of implementing investment projects in Eastern European countries acquires particular significance. Following the outbreak of hostilities, Romania has become one of the principal countries of transit and temporary residence for Ukrainian refugees. A considerable proportion of Ukrainian citizens who have left their country due to the war possess experience in the fields of agriculture, the food industry, logistics, and the processing of agricultural produce.

In this context, the construction of a compound feed plant for sheep farming in Romania may have considerable socio-economic significance both for the Romanian economy and for Ukrainian citizens residing in the country. The implementation of the project will create new jobs not only during the construction phase of the enterprise but also during its subsequent operation. Ukrainian refugees – a substantial proportion of whom require stable formal employment – may be engaged in carrying out construction and installation work, logistical operations, the servicing of technological equipment, and production processes.

The engagement of Ukrainian workers will make it possible partially to address the problem of labour shortages in Romania's agricultural and processing sectors – a problem that has been exacerbated by demographic changes and the labour migration of the population to Western European countries. At the same time, this will contribute

to the social adaptation of Ukrainian refugees, the provision of stable incomes to them, and the preservation of the professional potential of Ukrainian citizens.

It is particularly important that Ukrainian workers possess significant practical experience in the field of agricultural production, in particular in the cultivation of cereal crops, feed production, and animal husbandry. This creates the prerequisites for the effective integration of labour resources into the production processes of the compound feed enterprise and contributes to the development of joint Ukrainian-Romanian agro-industrial cooperation.

In addition to the economic effect, the implementation of such a project will have important humanitarian and strategic significance. Under wartime conditions, Romania and Ukraine are establishing a new level of partnership in the fields of agricultural logistics, food security, and the development of cross-border infrastructure. The construction of a compound feed plant may serve as an example of the practical integration of the economic interests of the two States, aimed at ensuring the stability of agri-food chains in the Black Sea region.

Thus, the construction of a compound feed plant for sheep farming in Romania represents not only an economically expedient investment decision but also an instrument for addressing some of the social and logistical challenges arising from the current geopolitical situation.

Conclusions and prospects for further research. The conducted research has confirmed that sheep farming in Romania is one of the key branches of the country's agricultural sector and possesses considerable production and export potential. The sector is based on a combination of autochthonous and selectively improved breeds, among which the leading roles are played by Tsurcana and Tsigai, as well as Merino breeds and Karakul. These breeds provide for various productive orientations – dairy, meat and wool.

At the same time, it has been established that the development of the sector is constrained by a number of systemic problems, including the reduction in natural pastures, insufficient infrastructure, the technological backwardness of individual farms, and a demographic shortage of labour in rural regions. An additional challenge consists in dependence on external markets and raw materials, as well as the general instability of the EU agricultural market under the influence of climatic and geopolitical factors.

At the same time, Romania possesses important prerequisites for strengthening the investment- and innovation-driven resilience of sheep farming: State support for the agricultural sector, the development of transit infrastructure, and existing demand for the modernisation of the feed base. In this context, the construction of modern compound feed enterprises is regarded as one of the key directions for enhancing the efficiency of the sector.

The socio-economic aspect of implementing investment projects also acquires particular significance, in particular the possibility of engaging labour resources – including Ukrainian citizens – which will contribute to partially addressing the personnel shortage and to strengthening Ukrainian-Romanian economic interaction.

Further research should be focused on assessing the effectiveness of investments in compound feed infrastructure, on improving sheep feeding technologies, and on analysing the logistical raw-material supply chains between Ukraine and Romania. A further promising direction is the study of the social impact of integrating Ukrainian workers into the Romanian agricultural sector.

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ІНВЕСТИЦІЙНО-ІННОВАЦІЙНА СТІЙКІСТЬ ВІВЧАРСТВА РУМУНІЇ В УМОВАХ СУЧАСНИХ ГЕОПОЛІТИЧНИХ ВИКЛИКІВ В УКРАЇНІ

Анотація

Сучасні умови функціонування агропромислового комплексу країн Східної Європи характеризуються значними трансформаціями, зумовленими як внутрішніми економічними процесами, так і зовнішніми геополітичними викликами. Одним із ключових факторів впливу стала повномасштабна війна в Україні, яка суттєво порушила традиційні логістичні ланцюги постачання аграрної продукції, зокрема зернових і кормових компонентів.

У цих умовах Румунія, як країна Європейського Союзу з потужним аграрним потенціалом і вигідним географічним розташуванням, відіграє важливу роль у забезпеченні транзиту української сільськогосподарської продукції. Водночас це створює додаткове навантаження на внутрішню інфраструктуру та актуалізує необхідність розвитку власної переробної бази, зокрема у сфері виробництва комбікормів.

Особливої актуальності набуває розвиток комбікормового виробництва для вівчарства, яке є традиційною та стратегічно важливою галуззю тваринництва Румунії. У цьому контексті інвестиції у будівництво сучасного комбікормового заводу для овець в Румунії дозволить підвищити ефективність галузі, забезпечити стабільність кормової бази та зміцнити регіональні агропродовольчі зв'язки, включаючи співпрацю з Україною.

У статті обґрунтовано доцільність будівництва комбікормового заводу для овець в Румунії. Проведено аналіз агропромислового сектору країни, досліджено сучасний стан та проблеми розвитку вівчарства, а також проведено огляд найпопулярніших порід овець в Румунії. Встановлено, що, незважаючи на значний аграрний потенціал і високий рівень розвитку вівчарства, Румунія має недостатній рівень розвитку комбікормової промисловості. Доведено, що створення сучасного комбікормового підприємства сприятиме підвищенню ефективності вівчарства, зменшенню імпортозалежності та посиленню українсько-румунського економічного співробітництва. Це також може мати суттєве соціально-економічне значення як для національної економіки, так і для українських громадян, що тимчасово перебувають у країні. Реалізація такого проєкту сприятиме формуванню нових робочих місць як на етапі будівництва підприємства, так і в процесі його подальшого функціонування.

Ключові слова: *вівчарство, комбікорм, виробництво, породи овець, агропромисловий комплекс, Румунія, Україна, логістика, геополітичні виклики, українські біженці.*

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