

## ON THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN THE FIELD OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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The problem of assessing sustainable agriculture multidimensionally implies a complex approach resulting from both sector and space interferences and from the difficulties related to the quantity and quality assessment of aspects characterising the sustainable development of the rural area. Starting from the present discrepancies and disparities between rural areas, research within the project „Complex models and methods of research in Romania’s sustainable rural development” shall be the ground for the development of a complex model of rural and regional development. This approach shall allow both the approach of the problems related to the policies of balanced and sustainable development of the rural area and the diminution of the impact of current agricultural practices on the environment and on landscape conservation. In order to assess the impact of the divergences between agricultural practices and ecological requirements, the main objectives of the project are the identification and development of a set of agricultural and environmental indices compatible with the indices defined at European level, their testing on the ground of a pilot questionnaire, and the development of a methodology of monitoring and analysis of the way ecological components meet sustainable agriculture development policy components, as well as the development of a rural development model locally and regionally. The project shall also supply methods of delimiting unfavoured areas, areas in full economic and social desertification and backward areas, and shall suggest solutions for development.

**Keywords:** sustainable rural development, indices, questionnaire, economic reconversion, rural development model