

## MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS IN ROMANIA

### Introduction

There doesn't exist a national strategy for the sector of medicinal and aromatic plants in Romania. Despite of that the economic business related to the use of medicinal and aromatic plants is rapidly growing since the last years. There exists a national wide association of producers of primary materials from medicinal and aromatic plants, associations in charge of the collection and acquisition of plants, associations in charge of processing plants e.g. producing teas, tinctures, etc. The members of this organizations are companies from Romania who are serving the market in Romania and outside of the country.

In the latest years Romania has become one of the leading suppliers of high quality medicinal and aromatic plants in Europe and America. Most of the

plants are exported to the European Union, USA and Canada.

In the same time the import of medicinal and aromatic plants is increasing. Unfortunately, this is a low-quality plant imported from China and Africa. This opportunity led to the decreasing of the plant production in Romania after 2010.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development hasn't a clear strategy in this field. Therefore, additionally to the export opportunities for the companies, there is a challenge about how to contribute to a sustainable life style in rural communities through generating an income from medicinal and aromatic plants for small scale farmers.

### Data on the development and production areas in Romania

Specification	UM	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Area	th ha	7,4	7,3	10,1	15,9	11,8	5,8	4,7	3,2	3,2	3,1
Total Production	th to	2,9	7,5	7,1	15,8	11,2	4,3	4,4	4,2	4,2	2,9

Interpretation of the data remains speculation but what we are aware of is the fact that a big amount of lower quality plants is imported from Africa and China. On the other hand plants of high pharmaceutical value produced in Romania are exported, big amounts e.g. to Germany

Source: 2007-2015 - NIS Data - The Romanian Statistical Yearbook

\* MADR and AGR2B intelligence data.

\* MAFRD - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development

### Financial support

The state offers financial support through direct payments schemes based on CAP according to the following categories:

- single area payment scheme (SAPS);
- redistributive payment;

- payment for agricultural practices beneficial to the climate and the environment;
- payment for young farmers;
- simplified scheme for small farmers.

### National legislation related to medicinal and aromatic plants

Overview on relevant legislations and laws.

- Law no.491/2003 on medicinal and aromatic plants, republished;
- MAFRD\* and MH\* common Order no. 243/2005 on the approval of the technical rules of manufacturing, processing and marketing of medicinal and aromatic plants;
- MAFRD and MH common Order no. 244/401/2005 on the processing, processing and marketing of

medicinal and aromatic plants used as such, partially processed or processed as pre-measured food supplements;

- MAFRD and MH and NSVFSA\* common Order no. 1228/244/63/2005 for approving the technical norms premeasured food supplements for animal and vegetable and / or mixtures thereof with vitamins, minerals and other nutrients;

- MAFRD and MH and NSVFSA nr. 7/2008 withdrawing up a list of claims of national nutrition and health associated to medicinal and aromatic plant products;
- Guide of good manufacturing practice in respect of cultivation and harvesting of medicinal and aromatic plants, approved by Order no. 170/2011

\*MAFRD - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development

\*MH - Ministry of Health

\*NSVFSA - The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority

### EU regulation

Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 of 19 January 2009 establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural

policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers.

### Bringing on the market

In order to bring processed medicinal and aromatic herb products and honey products on the market you have to follow a defined procedure.

Based on the Romanian legislation "finished products made from medicinal and aromatic plants and products of the hive notified by the operators in the field and belonging to **food, food supplements and products for internal or external use** (presumption: e.g. ointments with health benefit),

excluding cosmetics, shall be placed on the market in accordance with rules laid down by the competent authority". There is a complex system of notifications behind involving different authorities. Products obtained from the processing of medicinal and aromatic plants and with therapeutic indications fall within the category of **medicinal products** and are only authorized for placing on the market by the National Medicines Agency.

### Authorities in charge of the notification of food supplement products

The National Service for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and Beehive Products (SNPMAPS) from the National Institute for Research and Development for Food Bioresources - IBA Bucharest is responsible for the notification procedures. The notification itself is in the responsibility of operators who intend to market the food supplement or the product for external use on the market.

In the category of food supplements are included:

- medicinal and aromatic plants used as such, whether primary or processed
- plant and animal extracts and other products originally processed from plant and animal;

- mixtures of plants and animal extracts, mixtures of these with vitamins and/or minerals, including mixtures of vitamins and/or minerals with medicinal and aromatic herbs, products of animal origin, microorganisms, amino acids, vegetable and animal fats and other nutrients;
- apiculture products: pollen, pasturage, royal jelly, propolis, bee larvae extract and other apicultural products, mixtures of apiculture products and/or mixtures of apicultural products with medicinal and aromatic plants and/or other products of origin animal and/or essential oils, vitamins, minerals and other nutrients;

### Marketing possibilities

In the everyday life there are two sectors on the market: the companies and the local farmers. For the companies is easier to legalise the products made of medicinal and aromatic plants and to cover all the costs during the notification procedures because they are producing standard products and in a big

quantity. The small farmers are in the grey zone with their products. With a certification as a semi-subsistence farmer there is a possibility to sell the products on the local markets if the products were made in a certified processing unit.

### Authorized training courses in the field of medicinal and aromatic plants

To be a specialist in the field of medicinal and aromatic plants in Romania there is one accredited training by the Ministry of Labor and this is aromatherapy and phytotherapy. So there is no

authorized training possibilities for plant processing or for herbalist.

### Links

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:  
<http://www.madr.ro/culturi-de-camp/plante-medicinale-si-aromatice.html>.

### Contact and information

Information drafted at the occasion of the  
2nd European Herb Gathering, 26-29 April 2018,  
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