

## THE GRANTS IMPACT ON THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE BEEKEEPING SECTOR DURING THE PERIOD 2008-2015

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### **Abstract**

*The work analyzes the influence of the amounts granted as subsidy by National Apiculture Programme 2008- 2010 National Apiculture Programme 2011-2013 and National Apiculture Programme 2014-2015 on honey production obtained in this period. For this purpose, a study was conducted between 2002-2015 on the production of honey and disbursements under National Apiculture Programme. The data were collected from the NIS and the Ministry Agriculture and Rural Development official publications and then processed statistically. The study presents the evolution of the number of hives, the honey production and the price. The results evidenced the extent to which the honey production is influenced by the grants. The high potential for the beekeeping, the subsidies granted were meant to stimulate the beekeepers to have more than 100 bee families / apiary, improve the marketing and boost the farm exports on the international market.*

### **Keywords:**

*National Apiculture Programme, honey production, statistical and econometric analyses*

### **Introduction**

The work presents the advantages and disadvantages of applying in Romania the National Beekeeping Programme (NBP) during the period of 2008-2015. The analysis carried out on basis of the official data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the National Institute of Statistics, along with the authors' research, led to useful conclusions for both the producers in the analyzed sector, as well as for the policymakers, emphasizing the influence of the amounts granted as subsidy by NBP (National Beekeeping Programme) 2008-2010, NBP 2011-2013 and NBP 2014-2015 on the honey production achieved during this period.

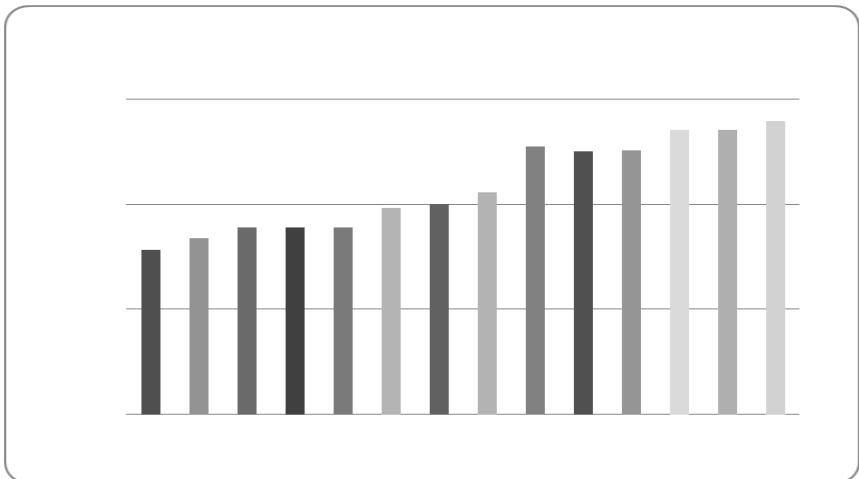
To this end, a study was conducted for the period 2002-2015, on the honey production and for the period 2008-2015 on the amounts granted by the NBP.

### **1. Methodology**

The research methodology includes statistics and econometrics analysis of the honey production, of the number of bee families and of the amounts granted through the NBP. There were calculated fixed base and chain indices the production, the number of bee families, and developed the mathematical function for the production and the number of bee families estimations over the period 2016-2018.

### **2. Results**

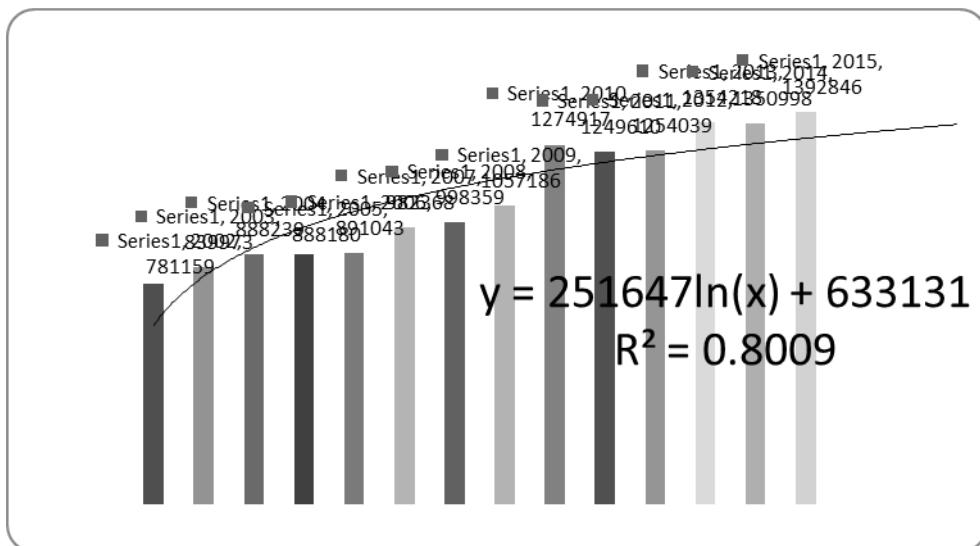
The evolution of the bee families total number in the period 2001-2015 was upward (fig. 1), an even more significant growth being after 2008. This fact, without a thorough analysis, may lead to the conclusion that the amounts granted through the National Beekeeping Program, has a positive influence on this development.



Source: www.insse.ro

**Fig. 1 The evolution of the total number of bee families during 2002-2015**

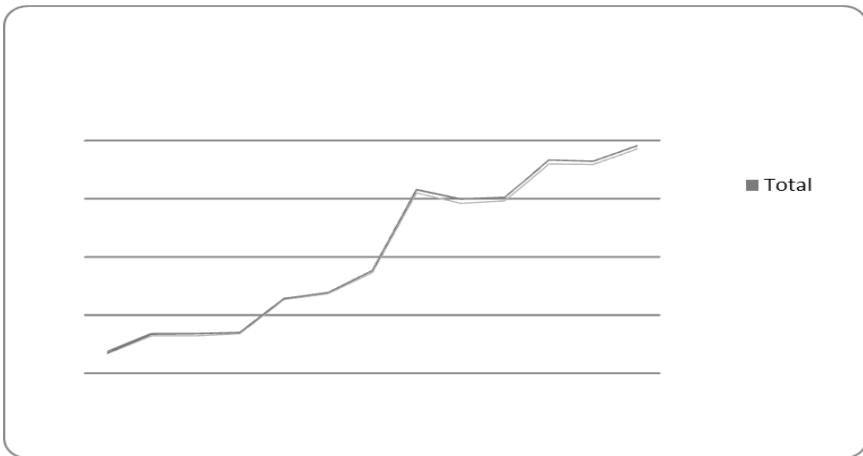
The estimation of the bee families number during 2016-2018 was obtained using the logarithmic function  $y=251647\ln(x)+633131$  (Fig. 2), keeping the upward trend, but the growth rate is lower than in the previous period.



Source: www.insse.ro and own processing

**Fig. 2 The estimation of the total number of bee families during 2016-2018**

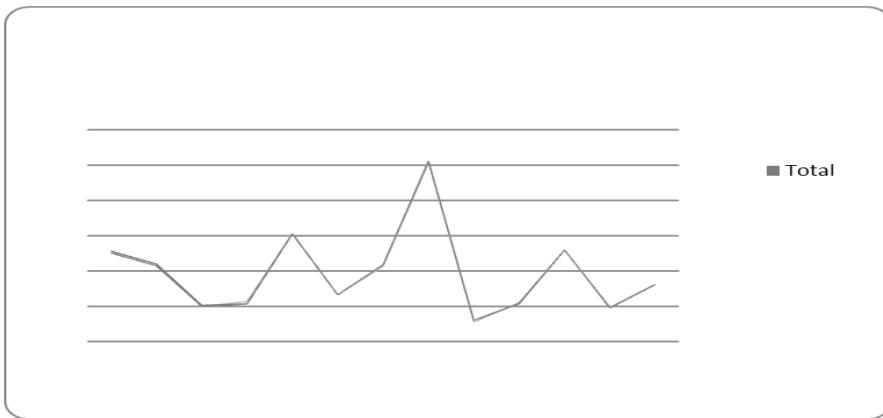
The private sector has an overwhelming share in the total, giving the general trend growth rate of the beekeeping sector (Fig. 3).



Source: www.insse.ro and own processing

**Fig. 3 The fix base growths rates during 2002-2015 – bee families number**

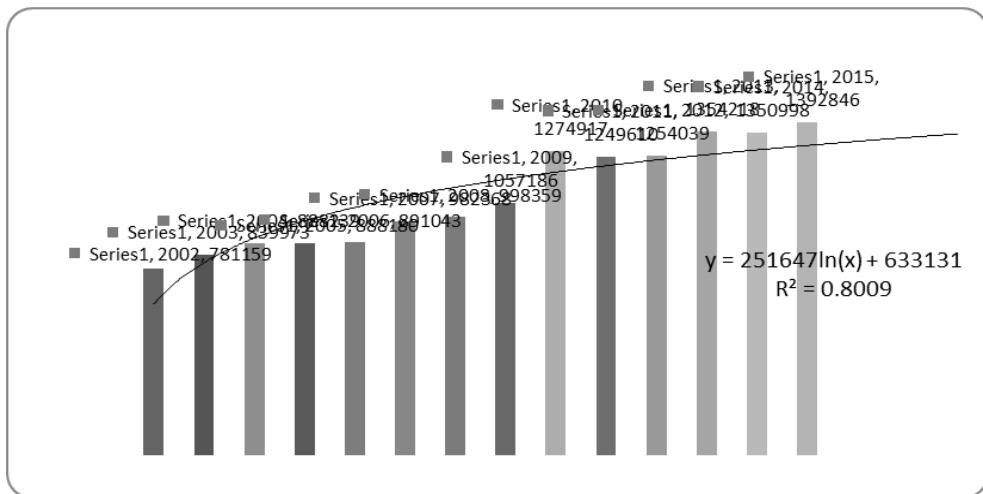
With regards to the chain base growth rate, the fluctuations from one year to another one are significantly high, the total sector following the path of the private sector. According to our own researches, during the analyzed period, no diseases or pests that affect the number of bee families were recorded. Consequently, the financial resources were considered to be those that have influenced the evolution during 2002-2015. It is to be noticed the top of growth from 2010/2009. That is related to the payments made within the program that began in 2008, but also to the experience gained by the beneficiaries in submitting the documentation for payment of the requested amounts.



Source: www.insse.ro and own processing

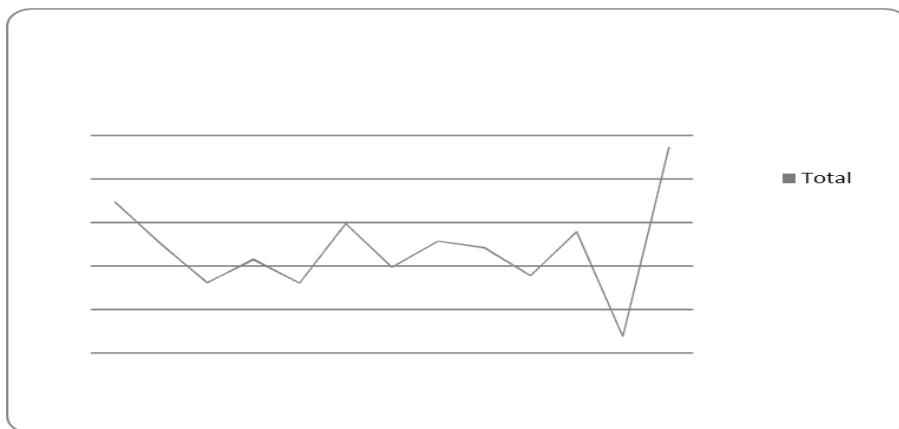
**Fig. 4 The chain base growths rates during 2002-2015 – bee families number**

The evolution of the honey production and the growth rates during the period under review, follows the evolution of the bee families number and their growth rates (fig. 5 and 6).



Source: www.insse.ro and own processing

**Fig. 5 The estimation of the honey production during 2016-2018 – tons -**



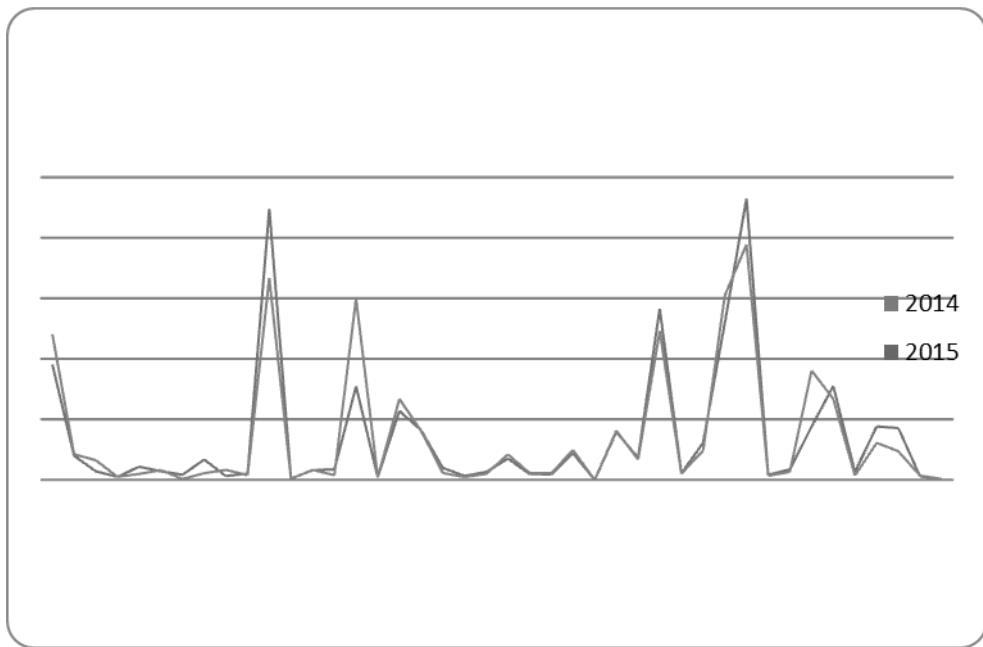
Source: www.insse.ro and own processing

**Fig. 6 The chain base growths rates during 2002-2015 – honey production**

With regards to the eligible costs during 2014-2017 (Fig. 7), significant fluctuations are noticed from one district to another. The procedure obtaining the grants involves:

- The beekeepers must be enrolled in the Beekeepers Association;
- These profile associations, collect the documents submitted by beekeepers enrolled in the association and submit to APIA (The Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture) a request for payment accompanied by these documents plus those of the association.
- The APIA representatives check the documents received, and in case they are incorrectly issued or incomplete, refrains from giving its support.

All these provisions, determined in some areas, high ineligible costs, thus the beekeepers being discouraged to submit the applications for grants.



Source: [www.mpdrr.ro](http://www.mpdrr.ro) and own processing

**Fig. 7 The eligible costs evolution during 2014-2015, NBP 2014-2016**

The analysis of the correlation between the honey production (in tonnes) and the amounts of the grants awarded during the review period, resulted in a correlation coefficient of 0.7614, that showing a weak correlation between the two variables.

### Conclusions

The reasons for not releasing the grants within the National Beekeeping Programme during 2008-2015 in Romania are: should the payment application be incorrectly filled in, or the supporting documents be incorrectly, incompletely filled in, or the submitted documents be expired, than the applicants will be notified in order to be amended the incorrect payment applications or accompanying documents according to the requirements. Otherwise the payment application will be declared ineligible, and the payment application is filled for another time than that of the NAP's actions the applicant submitted the payment request; irregularities after checking the invoices and the proof of payment; completing documents required by the notification is sent to APIA later than the time allowed, or 5 working days from receipt of the notification; non-payment of beekeepers associations that received the moneys from APIA (once applications are approved payment, money enter the account associations, because they submitted documentation to APIA and should send the amounts to the beekeepers within 30 days after the date of receiving the amounts in the account); in case of the verifications carried out by representatives of APIA identifies inconsistencies between the information provided in the payment request, supporting documents and the situation on the ground, beneficiaries of the subsidy will receive reduced amounts by 20%.

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